

Israeli soldiers wound 3

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded three Palestinians Saturday in the occupied Gaza Strip, Gaza City, after they threw stones at Israeli patrols, the officials said. Meanwhile, some 200 students, including the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) demonstrated in the Jabalia refugee camp in the strip against the Israel-Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord on limited Palestinian autonomy, signed in Washington on Sept. 13. A general strike paralyzed the Gaza Strip Saturday, called by Hamas to protest at the accord. All stores were closed and few cars were on the roads as most Palestinians obeyed the strike call. Hamas warned that all those who ignored the strike call would be "severely punished." Islamic militants threw stones at several vehicles and shops which remained open in Khan Yunis and Rafah Saturday, the Palestinian sources said.

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Israel speeds up West Bank digging

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel's antiquities department will send 16 teams of archaeologists to the occupied West Bank Sunday to speed up excavation work ahead of the implementation of Palestinian self-rule, Israel Radio reported Saturday. It said the researchers, who recently underwent special physical training to enable them to work in difficult areas, would head for sites in the Jordan Valley and the desert. Palestinian leaders have called for ancient artefacts found by the Israelis in the occupied territories to be returned since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed a limited autonomy accord for the West Bank town of Jenicho and the Gaza Strip on Sept. 13.

Terrorist threat seen in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AFP) — U.N. military officials warned Saturday that militants from an unspecified country had arrived here and could launch attacks on U.S. or other contingents of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Somalia. U.N. and U.S. forces were boosting security to protect against possible attacks, said U.N. military spokesman Major David Stockwell. "Analysis of intelligence reports has led us to believe that terrorist attacks on UNOSOM and/or U.S. forces are possible," Maj. Stockwell said in a statement. "This analysis reveals the presence in Mogadishu of an unspecified number of individuals, possibly Hizbullah fundamentalists with expertise in car-bombing techniques," the statement said. U.S. officials have warned Somali warlord Mohammad Farah Aidid "that he will be considered responsible if such attacks occur." The statement said U.N. and U.S. forces "are taking appropriate measures to protect against possible attacks."

200 detained in Algiers — radio

ALGIERS (AFP) — Security forces detained some 200 people Saturday during a sweep of the Belcourt district of Algiers, Algerian radio said. The sweep was launched before dawn around the area of the "Kabul" mosque, a stronghold of the extremist Muslim group known as "Afghans" composed of veterans from the war in Afghanistan. The "Afghans" form the hardcore of the Islamic Armed Group which has claimed responsibility for seizing three French consular workers at the end of October (see page 2).

Iraqi group says Shiites flee to border

TEHRAN (AFP) — A group of Shiite refugees fleeing Iraqi army attacks in the south of the country have gathered near the Iranian border and are waiting to enter the country, an Iraqi opposition group said Saturday. The army's "oppressive measures" have forced dozens of families to leave their homes in the southern marshlands of Iraq and move to the Hovar Al Hovezeh region, the Iran-based Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) said in a statement.

30,000 displaced Sudanese to return

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Arrangements are currently under way to return some 30,000 southerners displaced by the civil war now in camps in the Sudanese capital back to the Pashoda area in south Sudan's Upper Nile state, the press reported here Saturday. The Al-Sabeen Al-Watani daily quoted a Ministry of Peace and Rehabilitation official as saying that an ad hoc committee, chaired by a ministry representative, comprising a representative of the indigenous Shukri tribe and representatives of local, foreign non-governmental and religious organizations, will take charge of the arrangements.

Arafat condemns killing of settler; clears way for resumed self-rule talks

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Saturday condemned the killing of a Jewish settler in the Israeli-occupied territories, and appealed for an end to acts of violence.

"We renounce and condemn the killing of Israeli settler (Haim) Mizrahi," Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying by the official Palestinian news agency WAFA.

It was the first time Mr. Arafat condemned a specific attack by Palestinians in Israel or the occupied territories.

Mizrahi was stabbed to death on Oct. 29 while buying eggs at a farm near the West Bank settlement of Beit El. Israeli authorities said Friday that five youths from Ramallah had confessed to the slaying.

Mr. Arafat said the attack was carried out by an individual linked to the PLO "without orders of the leadership" and appealed for an end to all violence.

"We ask all the parties to oblige with the agreement and to put an end to all acts of violence for the preservation of peace," he said.

The statement added that the PLO leadership would take appropriate measures.

The stabbing was the first attack by men linked to the PLO organisation since it signed a peace agreement with Israel on Sept. 13.

On Friday, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Mr. Arafat promised to con-

demn the action and assured Israel as well that he had ordered followers to refrain from violence.

U.S. President Bill Clinton praised Mr. Arafat's declaration.

"I think it's a very positive sign," Mr. Clinton said. "I've only received limited reports this morning but from what I've heard it's a very positive sign. It's the sort of thing that will enable them to work together and to implement the accord."

Asked whether the United States made any direct attempt to persuade Mr. Arafat to condemn the attack, Mr. Clinton said, "we had no direct contacts, the White House did not, but we made it very clear what our position was."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Mr. Arafat's condemnation of violence made it possible for Israel-PLO talks to resume, Israel Radio reported.

Israel Radio said Arafat's renunciation of violence came after all-night telephone contacts between senior Rabin aides in New York and PLO leaders in Tunis. Mr. Rabin is touring the United States.

Several hours after Mr. Arafat's statement, Rabin issued his own, saying Israel would not play into hands of Palestinian extremists who want to derail the peace talks, the radio said.

Now that Mr. Arafat has publicly denounced violence, the peace talks should con-

Al Ahd seeks to form centrist coalition

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The formation of the first parliamentary coalition is in the making less than a week after election results were announced, according to Abdul Hadi Al Majali, secretary general of the Al Ahd party.

"We began consultations on a coalition last night and will have decided on the members of the coalition by the end of the week," Mr. Majali said Saturday refusing to reveal either names or number of the coalition members.

The coalition is expected to

be called the National Action Front (NAF). Mr. Majali however, refused to confirm the coalition name keeping most of the information about the parliamentary bloc shrouded in secrecy.

Sources close to Al Ahd, however, expect the coalition to group as many as 16 centrist and right-of-centre deputies.

Running as independents, four known Al Ahd members won seats last Monday in four different electoral districts without declaring themselves as party candidates. They were Ahmad Qudah of

(Continued on page 5)

Anani calls on parties to learn from election results

By a Jordan Times Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Prime Minister Affairs Jawad Anani Saturday called on political parties to evaluate their results in last week's elections instead of blaming the government for their failure.

Dr. Anani was reacting to a statement issued Saturday by five leftist parties accusing the government of being behind their poor showing in last Monday's elections.

"The current situation requires one to study the results and learn and benefit from his mistakes and evaluate the slogans that he put forth and the degree of his credibility among the people," Dr. Anani told the Jordan Times.

In a joint statement, five leftist political parties accused the government of "planning and working to produce a parliament that would serve the purposes of the (current) stage while keeping an appearance of formal democracy," Dr. Anani said.

In the meantime, the Associated Press quoted residents of northern Mazar village as saying that on Wednesday police forcibly dispersed hundreds of demonstrators who protested alleged irregularities in the Nov. 8 elections, resulting in the injury of 70 people and the detention of about 200.

The AP quoted Minister of Information Ma'an Abu Nowar as denying the report and said: "I can assure you that nothing of such nature took place in Mazar."

Arafat tactics fuel discontent among proponents of accord

By Lamine K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An internal crisis within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is undermining efforts to chart a negotiating strategy to implement the Israel-PLO autonomy accord and undermining the unity of supporters of the landmark agreement signed on Sept. 13.

The crisis, triggered by what critics see as PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's singlehanded approach to negotiations with Israel, has gained serious momentum over the last two weeks as disgruntled officials and negotiators have sought to build up support for organisational reforms.

Mr. Arafat has so far ignored calls by his colleagues to exclude his closest aides, including the architect of peace talks with Israel, Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), from the decision-making process.

Since the signing of the autonomy accord in Washington, Mr. Arafat is said to have taken unilateral decisions and made appointments without consulting his colleagues or experts.

Mr. Arafat's decisions have aimed mainly at asserting his leadership and preempting others from assuming any position of prominence and significance.

In the view of many PLO officials, Mr. Arafat is trying to exclude any potential rivals, from within Fatah in particular, from assuming a key role to ensure that he will have the upper hand in the future entity.

Initially, however, Mr. Arafat tried to appease his

critics by agreeing to suggestions that politicians and experts formulate plans for the formation of a Palestine National Authority (PNA) and an economic and development council in a way that reconcile between professional and political expertise.

He also appeared to accept that the composition of the negotiating teams should be based on professional expertise. In fact Palestinian politicians and experts had reportedly worked for at least two weeks writing out detailed definitions and descriptions and terms of reference for political and technical teams.

According to PLO officials, Mr. Arafat has sought to exclude his closest aides, including the architect of peace talks with Israel, Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), from the decision-making process.

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(Continued on page 3)

Happy Birthday
Your Majesty
and many, many
returns

Eng. Sabri Farah and family



Sayegh questions make-up of aid panel

TUNIS (R) — A prominent Palestinian economist urged Palestine leader Yasser Arafat Saturday to reconsider the composition of an economic council set up last week to channel foreign aid to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Yousef Sayegh, one of the council's 14 governors, said it was packed with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) politicians and "unknown young men some of whom just graduated." Dr. Sayegh told Reuters he would resign if the council was not reformed within two weeks. Mr. Arafat last week established the Economic Council for Development and Construction, which he will chair himself, to coordinate with international donors who have pledged \$2 billion to back the self-rule accord signed by Israel and the PLO. A Palestinian-Israeli committee will open economic talks in Paris Monday, both sides said. "Economic arrangements are the basis for real peace in the area hence the importance of the talks in Paris," said Israel Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, who heads the Israeli delegation. "I think what we have to do in Paris basically is to prepare an agenda and time frame for the discussions," Samir Huileh, an economist on the Palestinian team, told Reuters.

Jordan celebrates King's birthday



AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan today celebrates the 58th birthday of His Majesty King Hussein.

The King was brought up under the care of the late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, his grandfather and founder of the Kingdom, and his parents, King Talal, who passed away in 1972 and Queen Zein, the Queen Mother.

King Hussein underwent elementary education in Jordan before moving to Alexandria, Egypt, and later to Harrow School and the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst in England.

He acceded to the throne on Aug. 11, 1952, and assumed constitutional powers the following year when he became 19.

Celebrations

Jordan is celebrating the King's birthday by holding seminars, exhibitions and several cultural and educational activities.

The Ministry of Telecommunications issued commemorative stamps entitled "40th anniversary on His Majesty's assumption of his constitutional powers."

Crown Prince urges focus on refugees

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday said that the Jordanian negotiators to the Arab-Israeli peace talks should concentrate on and reaffirm the rights of the Palestinian refugees in all aspects.

Speaking during a meeting at the Prime Ministry with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Al Anani, Prince Hassan reviewed in detail Jordan's stand with regard to the issue

of Palestine refugees and other aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Prince Hassan urged the government to articulate Jordanian perceptions of a comprehensive and just peace and comprehensive security.

He said that Jordanian delegates to the peace talks should insist that all countries and all peoples of the region should be treated equally.

Referring to coordination with the other Arab parties to the negotiations the Prince

stressed the need to crystallise Jordanian formulas aimed at promoting such coordination in order to arrive at a just and comprehensive settlement.

The Crown Prince emphasised that human resources development should take into consideration human rights and all the natural rights of people, including the right to develop resources in a manner that would help in the establishment of real peace.

As long as people do not feel tangible benefits of peace, that peace would soon lose its content and its ability to survive, Prince Hassan said.

He reviewed with the prime minister several regional pan-Arab and international issues, the Crown Prince urged the government to define a number of concepts related to the peace process and other relevant issues, including a clear Jordanian plan for the coming stage of the peace negotiations

that aim at a durable settlement.

The Crown Prince emphasised that human resources development should take into consideration human rights and all the natural rights of people, including the right to develop resources in a manner that would help in the establishment of real peace.

Those contradicting the U.S. conception of peace."

Syria has demanded a pledge from Israel that it will withdraw completely from the Golan Heights, while Israel wants a commitment from Syria for "total peace" with open borders and diplomatic ties before debarring the scope of a withdrawal from the heights.

Syrian Information Minister Mohammad Salman said Saturday that it will withdraw completely from the Golan Heights, while Israel wants a commitment from Syria for "total peace" with open borders and diplomatic ties before debarring the scope of a withdrawal from the heights.

Following talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington Friday Mr. Clinton said he had "renewed America's unshakeable pledge to maintain Israel's qualitative security edge."

Mr. Salman, quoted by the official news agency SANA, said Israel was trying to reach separate agreements "opposed to the U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338."

"Peace does not need sophisticated weapons but rather truthful will and persistent effort to make peace a reality," the state-run Tishrin daily said.

Tishrin complained that Israel was unfairly getting all the rewards for its peace efforts, while Syria was getting nothing.

ALL BRANCHES
OF THE



ARAB BANK

Present their best wishes

To

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN

On his birthday

and wish him many happy returns
of the day

U.N. lists three options for its Somalia force

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali is proposing three options for the troubled U.N. operation in Somalia, ranging from retaining its present mandate more or less intact to securing only ports and airports to keep supply routes open.

According to a summary of a report to the Security Council being issued on Monday, he flatly rejects the possibility of a complete withdrawal from the country, now recovering from the ravages of famine and civil war.

The U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) comprises more than 29,000 troops. But a review is necessary because the United States, which has some 7,500 personnel on shore and more than 8,000 aboard ships, is withdrawing all but a few hundred logistics troops by March 31.

Belgium, France and Sweden, which together provide about 2,500 troops, have announced their intention to pull out even sooner and other countries may well follow suit.

Under a middle option, UNOSOM would comprise some 16,000 troops plus about 2,500 logistics personnel, while the minimal third option would require a force of only about 5,000.

Which of the three options the Security council chooses will largely depend on the availability of troops and resources and the degree of cooperation from local Somali factions.

UNOSOM has suffered dozens of casualties in recent months in clashes with followers of warlord General Mohammad Farah Aideed, though it has abandoned efforts to hunt him down and is concentrating on political reconciliation.

Dr. Ghali says the council does not have to make an immediate decision which option to choose but should consider the possibilities as the

situation develops.

He says he has written to 42 U.N. members inviting them to provide troops and logistics support or to increase their existing contributions.

Meanwhile, he recommends renewing the existing mandate, which expires next Thursday, until March 31.

But UNOSOM would not use coercive measures to ensure a secure environment, which is lacking mainly in south Mogadishu, General Aideed's stronghold. The U.N. force would try to initiate a political dialogue with all factions, including Gen. Aideed's United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance.

Rejecting any notion of a complete U.N. withdrawal, Dr. Ghali says: "The international community must not abandon Somalia in view of the incontrovertible desire of the Somali people for continued presence of UNOSOM in their country."

If the present mandate remained essentially unchanged, UNOSOM would not resort to coercive measures to enforce the disarmament of factions in south Mogadishu, but would "retain the necessary capability for coercive disarmament," should that prove necessary.

Under the second option, envisaging a strength of some 16,000 and a 2,500-member logistic command, the troops withdrawing by next March 31 would not have to be replaced.

UNOSOM would use force only in self-defence and disarmament of Somali factions would be entirely voluntary.

The emphasis would be on keeping main supply routes open, ensuring the uninterrupted flow of humanitarian aid, rehabilitation of the country's shattered infrastructure, repatriation of refugees and political reconciliation.

Under the minimal third option, requiring some 5,000 troops, UNOSOM would be limited to securing the airports



People walk in the street of the Somali town of Baidoa, as life is coming back to normal (AFP photo)

and ports in Mogadishu and other parts of the country. The U.N. force would assist U.N. agencies and non-governmental organisations in delivering aid and carrying out development projects.

This option presupposes that the local authorities would be prepared to cooperate with UNOSOM and would provide a secure environment.

An Italian officer was killed in Somalia on Friday, the seventh from that country to die in the peacekeeping operations there, the Italian Defence Ministry reported.

Causeggi Major Vincenzo Li Causi and another officer were driving in a military vehicle near the town of Balad when a group of Somalis opened fire, apparently in a bid to seize an Italian civilian vehicle that was following the ministry said late Friday.

The two soldiers returned fire. Li Causi, who was 41 and

the father of two children, died shortly afterward from a single bullet injury.

Pentagon to seek \$360m

The Pentagon plans to ask Congress for a supplemental appropriation of at least \$300 million for U.S. military operations in Somalia through March 31, a senior defence official said.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said the request would be to pay for American forces in Somalia from last month until the end of March.

"My guess is it (the request) is going to be in December or January," said the official of funds for the controversial presence of thousands of U.S. troops and equipment aiding in the humanitarian effort in Somalia.

If Congress does not approve the supplemental re-

quest — similar to an \$800 million appropriation it approved earlier for costs in Somalia — then the money will have to be paid out of regular Defence Department operations funds.

The official, who was discussing the 1994 defence budget with reporters, refused to predict how Congress might react to the request.

But he said appropriations committees in the House of Representatives and Senate are worried about the readiness of the U.S. military force as the defense budget is being cut and would probably be sympathetic to the supplemental request for additional funds.

"We're at the stage now where we need a supplemental," the official said, adding, "I think there is genuine, palpable concern for the readiness of the forces."

The money is above and

beyond the \$261 billion 1994 defence budget passed by Congress Wednesday and signed by President Clinton Thursday. That budget, covering the 12 months from Oct. 1, earmarks no money for Somalia.

In the past the Pentagon has paid for contingencies like Somalia by taking money from a budget account known as operations and maintenance — funds for things like operating vessels at sea, training tank crews and other activities designed to keep the forces ready to fight. It sometimes recoups the money by getting Congress to pass a supplemental budget bill.

Because the U.S. military in recent years has become involved in a much greater number of global operations, including humanitarian and peacekeeping missions, Defence Secretary Les Aspin asked Congress to create a separate account in the defense budget to pay for such activities. That way the funds for maintaining the forces' war-fighting readiness would not be jeopardized.

Fighting between U.N. troops and Aideed partisans has killed more than 70 foreign soldiers and hundreds of Somalis since June. The worst clashes occurred in early October when U.S.-led troops tried to arrest Gen. Aideed, who is blamed for the deaths of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers on June 5.

Dr. Ghali said that since the fighting in October the situation has been generally quiet.

But he warned: "Mogadishu remains tense. In the capital and elsewhere, major factions are rearming, apparently in anticipation of a possible return to widespread fighting sometime in 1994."

As a result, he stressed, "the international community must not abandon Somalia in view of the incontrovertible desire of the Somali people for the continued presence of UNOSOM in their country."

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. urges release of reporters in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States called Friday for release of two reporters held by fighters for Afghan prime minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami faction. Terence White of Agence France-Presse and John Jennings of the U.S.-based Associated Press were detained while covering combat between the Hezb-e-Islami and President Hamid Karzai's militia on Monday. Both are reportedly unharmed and in good health. Despite assurances by Hekmatyar's organisation that Jennings and White would be quickly released, they are still being held, said State Department spokesman Mike McCurry. "The United States government is concerned about this situation. We have contacted the Afghan embassy here in Washington and are following up," he said. "We will obviously continue to monitor the situation very, very closely," he added. The Vienna-based International Press Institute (IPI) also called Friday for the release of the two wire service journalists. The detention of the pair "was a clear violation of the rights of journalists to seek, receive and impart information," the IPI said.

Yugoslav president receives Libyan envoy

BELGRADE (AFP) — Federal Yugoslav President Zoran Lalic on Friday met here with a special envoy from Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, the Tanjug news agency reported. The agency, citing a statement from the president's office, said Mr. Lalic and Ali Abdul Salem Triki discussed United Nations sanctions imposed on Yugoslavia for its involvement in the Bosnian fighting and agreed that such measures did not contribute to the solution of international problems. Libya too is under U.N. sanctions, which were tightened Thursday, on grounds that it has refused to hand over two suspects in the 1988 Lockerbie airliner bombing for trial in either Britain or the United States. The talks here also dealt with peace efforts under way in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, according to Tanjug. Libya is one of the few Arab states that has maintained good relations with rump Yugoslavia, now reduced to Serbia and Montenegro, since the outbreak of fighting between Bosnian Serbs, Muslims and Croats in April 1992.

U.S. navy in war games with Britain, France

MANAMA (R) — The United States, Britain and France are holding joint naval war games in the Gulf, a U.S. naval forces central command statement said Saturday. It said the U.S. Navy ship USS Nicholson, the British HMS Cornwall and HMS Campbeltown and the French La Motte Piquet were taking part in the four-day Gulfex XXI exercises which started on Nov. 12. The statement did not say where in the "Arabian Gulf" the exercises were taking place. It said British Royal Air Force Tornado jet aircrafts would also participate in the air defence exercises. "Gulfex XXI was designed to sharpen the three navies' ability to work together in support of peace in the region," Vice-Admiral Douglas Katz, the U.S. Navy's top officer in the Middle East, said. "This is just a part of a very active exercise programme we conduct — predominantly with the Gulf Cooperation Council militaries — but also with other Western navies," he added.

Light quake rattles Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — A mild earthquake shook Lebanon late Friday but there were no reports of casualties or serious damage, radio stations reported. The intensity of the tremor, which occurred at 10:25 p.m. (2025 GMT) was not known but radio stations said that windows shattered in some houses although no other serious damage was reported.

Venezuela to return envoy to Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Venezuela has sent an ambassador back to Baghdad, becoming the first Western nation to take such a step since the 1991 Gulf war. Ambassador Ernesto Velasco Rojas told that he plans to present his credentials within the next week to the Iraqi authorities. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher last month complained about the move to his Venezuelan counterpart, General Fernando Ochoa Antich, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the ambassador said. A Kuwaiti official also complained about the move in Caracas, he added.

The 71-year-old diplomat, whose country is the third largest producer in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), said "my mission will be 95 per cent petrol, five per cent politics."

Snake's 'kiss of death' kills villager

CAIRO (AP) — A villager who attempted to imitate traditional Egyptian snake-handlers by putting the head of a snake in his mouth died instantly when the reptile bit him, a newspaper reported Saturday. Nazih Mohammad Abu Al Gheit was in Desouq, a town in the Nile Delta 220 kilometres northeast of Cairo, to visit a famous mosque where a Muslim saint is interred, the newspaper Al Messa wrote. Abu Al Gheit was sidetracked by street entertainers performing with live snakes. Sneaking among the onlookers, he picked up a snake and tried to put it in his mouth. It bit him twice, on the lip and tongue. Villagers often visit mosques containing tombs of saints to seek their blessing.

Kohl's aide called to testify

BERLIN (AP) — A court has asked Chancellor Helmut Kohl's intelligence director to testify about his recent talks with Iran's secret police chief. Bernd Schmidbauer was asked to testify at the trial of four Iranian men and Iranian secret agent Kazem Badabi. It was not immediately clear when the government official would testify. The men are on trial for the Sept. 17, 1992, attack that killed four Iranian dissidents. The most prominent victim was Sadig Sharafkandi, the head of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran. After meeting Iran's secret police chief, Ali Fallahian, in Bonn last month, Mr. Schmidbauer said the evidence may exonerate Iran in the quadruple murder.

French court indicts 3 FIS allies

PARIS (Agencies) — Three Algerians close to Islamic fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) were indicted here early Saturday by a French Judge, court sources reported.

Moussa Kraouche, 34, Abdul Haq Boujaadar, 32, and Larbi Beddiif were charged with criminal association in connection with "terrorist" activities by investigating Judge Roger le Loire.

The three were among 88 suspected Algerian fundamentalists detained around the country on Tuesday in an apparent reprisal for Muslim fundamentalist threats against French nationals in Algeria.

Mr. Kraouche, who was detained in a Paris suburb and remains in custody, is a spokesman for the Algerian Brotherhood in France, considered a front for FIS.

He is accused of having been a special contact for Rabah Kebir, head of the overseas branch of FIS and currently a refugee in Germany.

Mr. Kraouche allegedly received "political and religious instructions" from Mr. Kebir. At his home near here, investigators said they found a copy of a letter in which the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of three French consular officials in Algeria on Oct. 24.

The trio were freed a week later.

Mr. Kraouche was also reported to have been in possession of a copy of a letter from one of the hostages, Michelle Thevenot, given to her by her captors and threatening the lives of French nationals in

ship headed for Morocco on Thursday night, police said.

The Vaucluse regional préfet in May refused to renew Sheikha Liloia's residence permit because of "disturbance of public order as a result of his activities," according to the man's lawyer, Michel Raubaud.

Mr. Raubaud did not elaborate on what activities Sheikha Liloia had engaged in. The cleric had been living in France for the past six years.

On Wednesday, French authorities invoked a little-used procedure of "absolute urgency" to immediately expel Muslim cleric Hussein Konus, 59, to his native Turkey, the interior ministry said.

The Algerian army stepped in to cancel the second round of elections the following month, which Islamic fundamentalist candidates appeared destined to win, sparking a guerrilla war with supporters of the FIS.

Moroccan imam expelled

On Friday, French authorities expelled a Moroccan imam, the second Muslim cleric to be deported this week as the government cracked down on Islamic extremists.

Moummad Liloia, one of two imams of the mosque in Carpentras, 500 kilometres southeast of Paris, was put on a

flight to the United States on Friday. French authorities said he was not going to be used to make detonators but were for switches and lots of other things."

Tuesday's crackdown, which led to the expulsion to Turkey a day later of fundamentalist preacher Hussein Konus, 59, to his native Turkey, the interior ministry said.

There will be a rise in temperatures and winds will be moderately moderate. In Amman winds will be northerly moderate and east calm.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

There will be a rise in temperatures and winds will be moderately moderate. In Amman winds will be northerly moderate and east calm.

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel. 810740; Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785; St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590; Church of the Assumption Tel. 637440; De la Salle Church Tel. 661757; Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 630341

Rescue Police 661111, 631277

Fire Brigade 591228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 845462

Traffic Police 896590

Police Security Department 630201

Hotel Complaints 605800

Water and Sewerage 661176

Complaints 897467

Anman Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773101

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 689100

Jordan Electricity Authority 615615

Mirai promoted to general

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued Saturday promoting the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh from Lieutenant General to the rank of General.

General Mirai obtained an M.Sc in military science from the Royal College of Defence Studies in England.

He is also a graduate of the Royal Military Academy in

Jordan. He had served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence.

In 1962, he was awarded the Medal of Gallantry, Jordan's highest decoration for heroism in battle.

Prior to his appointment as joint chiefs chairman, Gen. Mirai was a member of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks.



Gen. Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh

Report cites 13 home demolitions, 13 killings by Israeli forces

AMMAN (Petra) — The Israeli occupation authorities last month demolished 13 Arab homes in the Gaza Strip using rockets in what they claim was a search for armed men resisting the occupation, said a monthly report issued by the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

In October, Israeli troops not killed 13 Arabs, thus rising to 1,528 the number of Arabs killed by Israeli forces since the start of the intifada in December 1987, added the report released Saturday.

Perhaps the worst events in occupied Arab lands, the report noted, were the recurrent attacks by Jewish settlers on Arabs and their property.

Noting that most of the attacks occurred in the vicini-

ties of Ramallah, Birzeit and Bir Zeit and nearby villages, the report said that the settlers burned and destroyed homes and cars in the wake of the kidnapping of one settler from Bet El near Ramallah.

All these attacks, said the report, were carried out under the eyes of and through encouragement by the Israeli armed forces.

The report quoted Saeb Erekat, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, as saying that in view of the continued attacks there was need for U.N. forces to provide protection to the Palestinian population.

It said that continued atrocities on the part of the Jewish settlers were bound to undermine the entire peace process.



Senior citizens gather at a public square in Salt (Staff photo by Ainsley Floyd)

Experts to find ways to care for growing senior citizen population

AMMAN (Petra) — Improved and advanced health care has increased the senior citizen population, which means that further efforts are needed to meet the needs of the Kingdom's elderly, Health Minister Secretary General Mahmoud Al Shahed said here Saturday.

Dr. Shahed told the opening session of a three-day regional meeting on improving the health and ways of caring for the elderly that the senior citizens had paved the way for future generations and therefore they require proper attention in health, economic and social matters.

Organised by the World

Health Organisation (WHO), in cooperation with the health ministry, the meeting is attended by 50 representatives and specialists in Arab and foreign countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region including Jordan.

The health ministry, said Dr. Shahed, would spare no efforts in implementing WHO-charted programmes for the care of the elderly.

Abdul Majid Abdul Hadi, the WHO representative at the meeting, said that in WHO's view there can be no special programmes for the care of the elderly separate from the

national programmes.

Senior citizen care, Dr. Abdul Hadi added, should be part of the primary health care service adopted by each country in accordance with its own priorities.

Organisers said the meeting was an opportunity for the exchange of expertise and information related and it was expected to result in guidelines for workers in the field in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

Attending the meetings along with Jordan are representatives from India, Iran, Egypt, Tunisia, Syria, Qatar, Bahrain, and Cyprus.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Senate speaker receives report on Kashmir

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Senate Ali Al Lawzi Saturday received a copy of a report compiled by the Pakistani parliament about the Kashmir problem. The Pakistani legislature has been distributing copies of the report to all world parliaments, according to Mr. Lawzi who said that Jordan is committed to international legality and human rights principles in all international or regional conflicts.

Amman-Sydney flights to start

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) announced Saturday that it has concluded a deal with the Civil Aviation Authority of Australia, for the commencement of direct flights between Amman and Sydney. The CAA said in a statement that under the agreement Royal Jordanian (RJ) will make two weekly flights between Amman and Sydney against two flights by Quantas, the Australian airline. It said that the agreement came as a result of talks which CAA Director Ahmad Iweibet held in Sydney last September.

French to restore Dead Sea manuscripts

AMMAN (Petra) — Under a deal signed by the Higher Council for Science and Technology and the French Electricity Company, the latter will carry out restoration and maintenance of the Dead Sea manuscripts which were inscribed in ink. The government has approved the project which is backed by guarantees from the French government, and the manuscripts were flown Friday to Paris for the year-long maintenance work.

500 businessmen to discuss monetary issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Central Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi will be the guest of honour at a meeting to be held at Philadelphia Hotel Monday evening by the Jordanian Businessmen's Association. Discussion at the meeting which will be attended by 500 Jordanian businessmen will focus on monetary and banking issues relevant to the Middle East peace process.

Relief supplies sent to Chechen flood victims

AMMAN (Petra) — In pursuit of its policy of coming to the aid of Arab and Muslim people stricken with natural disasters, the Hashemite Charity Organisation (HCO) Saturday despatched 14 tonnes of relief supplies to the Chechen Republic to help relieve the victims of recent floods. Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdal Salam Al Abbadi, who saw off the plane, said that on board were medical and food supplies in addition to blankets. Dr. Abbadi said all the relief supplies were donated by the people of Jordan to the flood victims in the Chechen Republic.

Antiquities director to participate in Cairo conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The director of the Department of Antiquities, Safwan Tell, flew to Cairo Saturday to attend a seminar on the protection of cultural heritage in North Africa and the Middle East. Dr. Tell, said he would submit a working paper on the department's activities, especially in the restoration of archaeological sites.

Parliament to construct new complex to house offices for senators, deputies

AMMAN (Petra) — Parliament has acquired two dumuns of land nearby its premises to construct a new building to house offices for members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, according to an announcement by Parliament Secretary General Saleh Al Zoubi.

The Prime Ministry and the General Command of the Jordanian Armed Forces have given their consent to the project and assigned two dumuns of land next to the Parliament building for its implementation, said Mr. Zoubi in a statement Saturday.

He said the building will be linked to the main building via an underground tunnel.

Mr. Zoubi said designs for the project have already been completed and work would start soon.

In addition to the new offices, he added, the new complex will include a car park, a library, a conference hall and areas for several other

future activities.

At the same time, he said, designs have been drawn up for the construction of another building within this complex to serve as a waiting hall for citizens wishing to meet their representatives.

Mr. Zoubi said other preparations were also underway for the opening of the 12th Parliament, expected early next month.

His Majesty King Hussein usually opens the session with a speech from the throne, then a joint session of the two houses is held and later separate meetings are scheduled, explained Mr. Zoubi.

In preparing for the coming session, he noted, a central computer system has been installed to record and store various activities of the two houses including legislation and minutes of each of the sessions, as well as research studies conducted on parliament work.

According to Mr. Zoubi, the parliament staff has already been trained on the computer and has taken courses in English language, secretarial

work and storing legal research work.

The Parliament dome was re-painted under the supervision of a team of teachers from the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), said Mr. Zoubi.



Adel A. Dalqamouni

Mohammad O. Sharedee

the sister of Mohammed O. Sharedee told the Jordan Times Friday.

She said when her brother did not return home, the family became worried and reported him missing to Irbid police. But the officers said they had no information on the boy, said the sister.

The family placed an advertisement including a description and photograph of the missing boy, in the local newspapers.

The 11-year-old boy's sister said the family received a telephone call the next day from the Amman police informing the family that their son was in police custody.

"It seems that my brother got bored in Irbid and decided on his own to leave the house and go to Amman," the sister said. She said that the police were helpful, and treated her brother kindly while in custody, until he was claimed by his family.

CARE, Jordan agree to start development, relief projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Australian charity organisation CARE Saturday signed an agreement with the Ministry of Social Development to implement several developmental, humanitarian and relief projects in Jordan, especially during natural disasters or in cases of regional conflicts affecting the Kingdom.

Secondly, if they succeed in convening the Palestine National Council (PNC), they will find themselves confronting both Mr. Arafat on the one hand, and hardline opponents of the accord on the other.

Aware of such a definite possibility, Mr. Arafat is most likely to try to corner his critics by trying to force them to choose between the "peace camp" and "the opposition."

Thirdly, even though many PLO officials, including some from Fatah, seem ready to demand the resignation of Mr. Arafat if he does not abandon his singlehanded methods, it is still not clear if either Mr. Abbas, who said to support the "reform movement" or Farouk Kaddoumi, who is the second-in-command of Fatah, is ready to take over — or can muster the needed support.

Mr. Arafat has been apparently trying to play Mr. Abbas and Mr. Kaddoumi against each other by alternately "promoting" or "excluding" them from the "decision-making circle."

But PLO officials and analysts point out that the issue is no longer an in-house powerplay as international donors are voicing dissatisfaction with the PLO policies.

The prospect for change so far seems slim, especially that the PLO is badly split over the accord, and the power struggle has intensified as Mr. Arafat wants to ensure his control during the autonomy period.

The aim to gather momentum for a movement of change from within, said one PLO official involved in the reformist drive. "Thus even if some drop out it will not matter once popular pressure is built up on Mr. Arafat."

Analysts do not rule the possibility that some might join the reformist camp to improve their bargaining position in the current power struggle over positions in the

of such disasters.

CARE will make contributions towards the implementation of income-generating projects which would employ workers in the economic, social and services sectors and will provide food, medical aid and equipment for these projects.

Under the agreement, CARE will also help rehabilitate people through projects that would enable them to resume their normal economic and social life in the aftermath of emergency development.

CARE which formally opened its office in Amman in 1959, signed the first agreement with Jordan to provide relief assistance to the country in 1949.

The agreement Saturday was signed by Minister of Social Development Mohammad Sghour and CARE Director Robert Yallop.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ibrahim Al Nashashibi at Baladna Art Gallery (Gardens Street).
- ★ The Palestinian embroidery exhibit at the Royal Cultural Centre (daily 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.).
- ★ Jordanian stamps exhibition at the Orthodox Club in Abdoun.
- ★ Exhibition of recent paintings by artist Ammar Khammash at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibeh. Also showing, the permanent exhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Fahmi Al Qaysi at the Alia Art Gallery.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

- ★ A Service of Remembrance will be held at the Church of the Redeemer at 6:30 p.m.

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Of Tides

Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1998

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Meaningful occasion

HIS Majesty King Hussein's 58th birthday celebrations today distinguished themselves from previous occasions by two milestones: The elections for the 12th parliament and the advent of peace. One is the Middle East peace process which has made considerable progress during 1993, unmatched by all the past 25 years of fruitless efforts. If, as expected, this year will witness a real breakthrough on the various Arab-Israeli fronts, then the King's birthday this year would acquire a historical dimension.

On the internal level, the fact that the 1993 general elections were conducted on schedule, in spite of all the odds, would surely go down in history as the year that consolidated the Jordanian democratic process and made it irreversible. Contemporary historians will not fail to mention that during the King's 58th year, democracy in Jordan was consolidated and moderation achieved.

The King has been at the forefront of Arab and non-Arab leaders campaigning for a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict. That fact has been acknowledged by friend and foe alike. He has had a vision of peace during all the years at the helm of the country. Despite obstacles in the path of peace, by Israelis and Arabs alike, the King kept carrying the torch of peace and relentlessly pursuing it. And to help achieve this noble goal, the King has positioned Jordan on the track of democracy and moderation.

When we, God willing, celebrate the King's 59th birthday next year, we hope that the seeds of peace and democracy that His Majesty has sown would have borne fruit.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Saturday described the repeated differences among the leaders of Yemen as a real pain that tends to undermine the Yemeni unity. The differences constitute a real threat to this unity and the Arabs hope the Yemeni leaders would soon contain and dispel these differences and rise above petty disputes to reestablish confidence in the unity of the north and south of Yemen which fused a few years ago, said the daily. Perhaps Jordan is one Arab country most concerned with and continually advocates unity among the Arabs who, the paper said, could together chart a brighter future. Noting that King Hussein was quick to try to end the differences in views among the Yemeni leaders since the start of the crisis, the paper said that the Yemeni people and leaders realise that their unity is targeted by their enemies and therefore ought to act in a manner that would best safeguard this unity. It is indeed our hope, said the paper, that the Yemeni people will protect their unity and preserve our joy over their cohesion and their solidarity. It said the time has come for the Yemeni people to prove to the world in general and the Arab states in particular that their unity is possible and sustainable and that the Yemeni people are determined to overcome the obstacles and are resolved to fight off hegemony and hostile forces that aim at dividing their country.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily drew the Arab Nation's attention to the fact that the United States is only feared by the Arabs in the wake of the Gulf crisis. Following its failures in Somalia, Haiti and Bosnia, the United States is desperately trying to consolidate its hegemony over the Arab states, said Tareq Masa'weh. Washington has of course tried its hand with Europe and Japan, where it hoped to impose its domination following the downfall of the Soviet Union, he said. The writer said that the United States is imposing its terrible presence on the Arabs by pursuing the embargo on Iraq and by pillaging the Arab World's oil wealth. The United States is also imposing its hegemony on the Arabs through the so-called peace process which aims to perpetuate Israel's domination of the fate of the Arab World, added the writer. Amongst the nations of the world only the Arabs stand out as obedient to the "American master" and out of all nations, including the hungry Somalis, the Arabs seem to be totally humiliated by and totally subjugated to the American will, according to the writer. He urged the Arabs to learn from the lessons of Haiti, Somalia and Bosnia and throw off the yoke of hegemony and domination.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

What will be Jordan's economic peace dividends?

Normally, peace is a good thing to happen. Only arms suppliers may lose as a result of resolving dispute and this could be the case in the Middle East.

However, we ourselves may be in for a disappointment, especially when it comes to our high expectations of peace dividends.

The public opinion was conditioned to believe that peace means economic prosperity, resulting from massive financial aid and foreign investments.

Of course the Palestinians under occupation will benefit. First of all they have nothing to lose, and they may have a lot to gain both politically and economically, but is that applicable to Jordan? My answer is no.

During the past 24 months, the Jordanian economy was taking off. Growth rate is anything between 6 and 12 per cent in real terms. The new set of circumstances, and the uncertainty that comes with it, will cause an interruption, which Jordan may need some time to recover from.

The indications are very obvious: The stock exchange witnessed a setback, prices dropped and turnover declined. Peace may be good for the Jordanian companies and may justify a rise of, say, 10 per cent in share prices, but the speculators have pushed the prices up by 25 per cent in anticipation of a fair deal. Apparently, the actual agreements were not up to expectations, and an adjustment of 15 per cent down looks reasonable as a correction.

Real estate market is almost at a standstill. Both buyers and sellers prefer to wait and see. They are not sure whether the impact of the interim agreement will be positive or negative. When one is not certain, things are put on hold for some time.

The banking system is equally confused: Would the creation of the Palestinian self-government give them an opportunity to branch out in the West Bank and Gaza, or would it close the window of opportunity as Palestinians may like to establish their own commercial banks? Since the know-how and the private capital are abundant, most likely the Palestinian government will encourage the foundation of new commercial and development banks which may seize part of the Palestinian deposits now in Jordanian banks. Moreover, banks are not sure whether to get ready for a boom and expansion phase or for an economic recession and the bad debts that come with it.

With an extensive economic development programme in the Palestinian autonomy, the West Bank may become a lucrative market for Jordanian exports. A Jordanian minister estimated that Jordanian exports to the West Bank can top \$300 million a year. The figure may be on the high side unless Jordan

supplies the West Bank and Gaza with their energy needs, but what is the use if the Israelis will continue to control the bridges and keep the West Bank as a captive market for Israeli products? It was leaked that Israel will permit Jordanian exports to the West Bank but impose a low ceiling of \$15 million a year or only 5 per cent of the potential market.

If the bridges continue to be open to Palestinian exports to Jordan, which reportedly has 60 per cent Israeli input, and if Jordan fails to convert the bridges into international borders with customs and passport posts, it is possible that the industrial in the West Bank, which will be in partnership with Israeli industrialists, will be at the expense of the Jordanian industry.

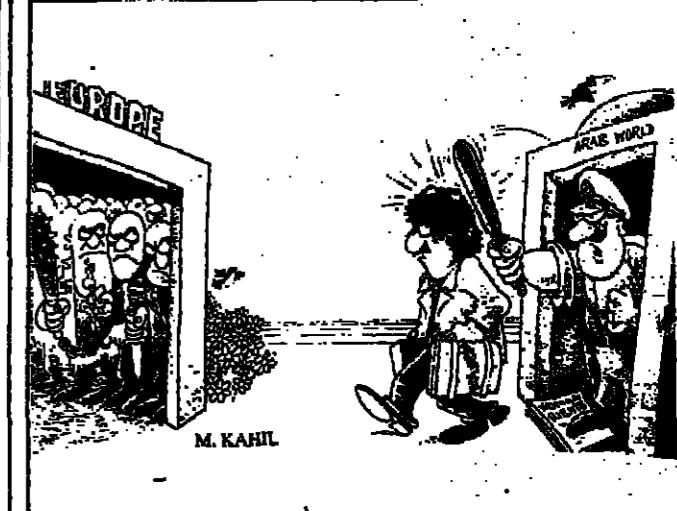
Of course, one can say that Jordan is an independent state and has a free hand to take measures and impose restrictions as may be necessary for the protection of Jordanian interests, but the real life experience proved that the Jordanian government will hesitate to take any timely action that may be criticised by the Palestinians, Americans or the Israelis. Yielding to pressure and attempting to be agreeable to all may cost Jordan dearly.

President Clinton called for an international donors' conference to raise funds to finance peace. It is worrying that the president did not care to mention Jordan, or for that matter Syria or Lebanon. Only the Israelis and Palestinians will be invited. It is only normal for Jordan to feel abandoned. Jordan played a constructive role in bringing about peace. It has borne the burden of Palestinian demographic waves in 1948, 1967 and 1991, yet its cooperation and sacrifices are not being appreciated by the international community in a meaningful manner.

Even debt relief of 50 per cent by the Paris Club, which was granted to Egypt and Poland, was not considered for Jordan. Jordan only got Mr. Clinton's vague promise of debt relief which is not exactly debt reduction.

To that we must add that even before the recent disappointing developments it was recognised by the pro-Israeli think-tanks in America and the promoters of peaceful settlement in the Middle East that Jordan has practically no major economic gains that may result from concluding a peace agreement and that any concessions that Jordan is required to make must be compensated generously.

Unfortunately, it seems that Jordan did everything possible and went out of its way to help, but got nothing in return and may stand to lose politically and economically, unless something is done to alter the current course of action or inaction.



The status of Palestinians in hosting Arab states

By Pascal B. Karmy

residing in Lebanon.

However, it must be pointed out that thousands of Palestinians who took refuge in Lebanon in 1948 and therefore were able to obtain the Lebanese nationality through the court or through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the ground that either their ancestors were Lebanese or they were considered as expatriates. But the majority retained their Palestinian nationality.

Lebanon cannot grant citizenship across the board. Palestinians living there because it will seriously and dangerously disturb the delicate sensitive balance of power between the sects and religious communities.

In Iraq, as from 1950, the Iraqi government granted Iraq passports to all Palestinians living there. They are being treated on equal footing with the Iraqis and thus enjoy the same rights as the latter, minus the political rights.

In Egypt, the Egyptian government granted the Document de Voyage to the first thousand Palestinians who took refuge there in 1948. They could work or carry out private jobs and some were recruited as experts in various government departments or official public establishments. But their status was not legally and properly regulated until the promulgation of the Legislative Decree of 1956. This law stipulated that Palestinians residing in Syria shall enjoy the same rights as the Syrians with regard to employment in government ministries and departments and public establishments, as well as to work in the private sector, and shall be subject to military service provided that they shall retain their Palestinian nationality.

As a consequence of this law, Palestinians were initially allowed to work at odd private jobs and some were recruited as experts in various government departments or official public establishments. But their status was not legally and properly regulated until the promulgation of the Legislative Decree of 1956. This law stipulated that Palestinians residing in Syria shall enjoy the same rights as the Syrians with regard to employment in government ministries and departments and public establishments, as well as to work in the private sector, and shall be subject to military service provided that they shall retain their Palestinian nationality.

We have the current situation in which the Israelis are developing pro-active and creative approaches (to open diplomatic relations and commercial relations with Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and now several of the Muslim countries, and plans for Israeli involvement in the post-peace Arab East are evolving space); while Arabs appear to be either paralysed or reactive, with their intellectuals and opposition-thinkers seemingly capable of no more than issuing denunciations or recasting outmoded cold war formulae.

This debate over vision was central to the 1992 presidential election and has continued to develop since then. In fact, it was the absence of what Mr. Bush himself referred to as "the vision thing" that contributed to his defeat last November.

Mr. Clinton won and now must apply his vision, all the while modifying it to meet changing realities. But he knows that, if he is to succeed, he must construct and articulate a future course that can inspire and mobilise voters to support his policies.

While it may be fair to criticise Mr. Clinton's vision or to find it inadequate or inconsistently applied — it nonetheless exists and is being regularly presented by administration officials, discussed and constructively criticised by analysts and intellectuals. The debate is intense.

It was, in conclusion, the absence of this kind of debate that I found so troubling at a meeting of Arab and Arab-American intellectuals. To either support or criticise an extant policy is easy. But to plot a future course, to know the kind of Palestine one wants to see in the next 10 years and to propose a realistic course of action that will lead to that end — that is what is required and has been, until now, so sorely missing.

The writer is president of the Washington-based Arab American Institute. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

It can be concluded from it above that it is wrong to say

a sweeping manner the Palestinians in the host Arab countries cannot travel abroad, work, carry on business or own property. They can freely perform all those activities in Syria and Iraq without any impediment while in Lebanon and Egypt those activities are subject to permits or authorisations.

A comparison between the

status of Palestinians in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Iraq shows that in Jordan they enjoy much wider rights, including political rights, than those exercised in the other Arab countries. In effect, Palestinians in Jordan are Jordanians.

AUSTRALIA

Following is Professor Hisham Sharabi's address at the 26th Annual Convention of the Arab American University Graduates (AAUG) on Oct. 22. Mr. Sharabi is professor of European Intellectual History and Omar Al Mukhtar professor of Arab culture at Georgetown University in Washington and editor of the English language quarterly *Journal of Palestine studies*.

Last month I visited Palestine for the first time in 46 years. I left Palestine before the fall, shortly after graduating from the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 1946 to pursue my studies at the University of Chicago. I went to see my home in the Ajami quarter, but I did not try to go in. My Jaffa was not the Jaffa I now saw; this was a surrealistic remnant of the city I knew. Nothing has changed and everything has changed. The truth I already knew was forcefully reconfirmed: memory can preserve itself only by keeping the present at bay.

The memory I wanted to preserve is of the Jaffa which some of you may know: of a gay, vibrant, bright, city, get-

ting rapidly prosperous after the end of World War II on its world-famous oranges. Jaffa represented then the confident mood that prevailed throughout Palestine. Palestinians society was at that time a highly literate society, developing slowly into the kind of secular, modernising society the pioneers of the Arab Renaissance of the previous generation had envisioned for the entire Arab World.

My sad return to Jaffa made me experience the full tragedy that befell my hometown and the entirety of my country. It was as though an atom bomb had been dropped on Jaffa and obliterated it. Like Hiroshima, it was rebuilt. But unlike the now prosperous Japanese city, Jaffa never came back to life. Instead, another city, populated by another people, was created. The original inhabitants have simply disappeared; the few who remained or took refuge in it from the surrounding villages led a shadowy life in the ruined outskirts, reminders of the city no longer there.

The life that was interrupted nearly fifty years ago in Jaffa and in all of Palestine, can now be rebuilt. In this sense Pales-

The future of democracy in Palestine

tine is still within reach. Travelling in Gaza and throughout the West Bank I felt the firm soil of Palestine under my feet and the warm Palestinian sun on my face. I had been told by friends who had visited the occupied territories that Jewish settlements were to be seen everywhere, on hill tops, along the main roads, close to wherever there was a Palestinian village or town. While this was certainly true of certain areas, particularly around Jerusalem and along the Ramallah-Nablus road, most of the settlements I saw appeared isolated and thinly populated, vulnerable encampments rather than expanding outposts of a powerful settlement project. In contrast, the Arab towns and villages strewn across the countryside looked calm and serene, firmly rooted in and confidently blending with the landscape.

This was not the over-crowded space I had envisioned. It seemed capable of sustaining a much larger population than it now had, especially if traditional agricultural techniques and high-tech industry replaced the old methods of manufacture. The problem should no longer be

expressed in the old economic framework but in terms of the political and economic decisions the new society will take in refashioning itself and its future.

I don't think there is much point in spending much time discussing the Oslo agreement and its various shortcomings. Most of those who support it and those who oppose it have much the same fears and reservations about it. Where they disagree is over what has been negotiated, signed and ratified.

I think we all agree that a far better agreement could have been negotiated. But even a better and more acceptable agreement would still have essentially the same framework, the one based on the National Palestine Council's 1988 resolution accepting the two-state solution and recognising Israel's right to exist, and one governing the peace process launched in Madrid in 1989. The difference between this agreement and a better one would have been in detail but not in basic structure.

The fact is we have been pushed into the water. But if we do not swim we will drown. What is the point in harping on what most of us do not dis-

agree with? Is there a realistic alternative to the course of action provided by this agreement, which has been enthusiastically endorsed by the international community and accepted, albeit reluctantly and with many reservations, by the majority of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, according to recent polls?

Rejection of the agreement may appear to some the proof of ideological purity, to others it may be psychologically the most satisfying decision to take. But it is a Oxuiotic position at best, and could be regarded as callous when the majority of the Palestinians who have carried the burden of the struggle over all these years have chosen to take the risk of the *fait accompli*. It is clear that Palestinian rejection this time will cause the world to turn its back to us and forget there is a Palestinian problem, leaving us and the Israelis to settle our differences alone.

Probably the only logical, though in my opinion suicidal, alternative is the one put forward by the fundamentalists: all or nothing. And this is an alternative which the majority has also rejected.

The question should not be whether the PLO should enter negotiations on the basis of the agreement but whether the PLO, given its history of corruption and ineptness, can handle such a huge task and what should be done to steer it or push it in the right direction.

We talk today about human rights, basic freedoms, democracy. What do these concepts mean to the Palestinian people who over the last half century have been uprooted and dispersed, and their society crushed? These concepts certainly mean to them a great deal more than they do to people who already enjoy security and a stable social order.

Having to start from scratch, the Palestinians want to build a free, humane and democratic Palestine. They will not be satisfied, for example with just the slogans of, but will want truly free elections in which no one will be elected by 99 per cent of the vote. They also want to do what no Arab regime has been able to achieve since independence: not only to award women full rights and equality but also to honour Palestinian women, by acknowledging their unique

and heroic role in the intifada and the struggle for national survival. What happened in Algeria will not be allowed to happen in Palestine. What happened in Algeria shall not be allowed to happen in Palestine.

As they rebuild society the Palestinians also have to build their state. No free society in the modern age can endure without state sovereignty. The West Bank and Gaza will remain just a geographic expression and the Palestinian people only "inhabitants" or "residents" or refugees until the state of Palestine is established. One glance at what is happening in the Balkans, in the former Soviet Union and in many other parts of the world, will convince us of how crucial statehood is for the survival of small peoples.

For the Palestinians, especially crucial is building a state firmly based on the rule of law. This is of the utmost importance, for the alternative would only be another version of patriarchal authority, for which democracy and human rights are merely manipulatory slogans: in short, just another mukhabarat state.

Unfortunately, the way things are going does not inspire much optimism. Two examples: Reporting from Amman earlier this month, Middle East International correspondent Lamis Andoni describes how what she calls the "chaotic" working practices of the PLO are affecting its effectiveness in dealing with the post-agreement situation on the ground.

The leadership's delay in forming committee to discuss details of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and the responsibilities of the elected council have had more to do with the chaotic working practices and lack of preparedness that characterise the PLO. Furthermore, the leadership seems to be deliberately delaying the process. It hopes thereby both to secure a bigger role in administering the funds for the occupied territories and to ensure victory in the elections.

And she adds:

"Many fear that the leadership might simply move the degenerating PLO institutions to the territories lock, stock and barrel, without either new blood or organisational re-

consensus that would yield political results. Political pressure is possible only when criticism is translated into specific demands."

In the West Bank and Gaza I learned of different informal groups forming within the various organisations, among independents, in the women's movement.

"There is also some criticism of the tendency, in the words of a senior executive, to 'favour trust over competence', by placing loyalists in important positions and ignoring talented but outspoken Palestinians who may question the leadership's absolute authority."

As he adds:

"The competition for posts in the coming Palestinian administration in Jericho has hampered the PLO's ability to communicate with the outside world as rivals are consumed in settling accounts with one another."

What is to be done? More specifically, what can we do here in the United States.

First of all, we must remember that what the Palestinian-American and Arab-American community says and does carries much more weight in Palestine and the Arab World than most of us think. The following thoughts may be useful to consider.

If most of us, particularly the intellectuals, professionals, business people, students and academics continue to restrict their comments and criticisms to private discussions and social gatherings, while maintaining in public neutral or non-committal, or at best, mildly reproachful attitudes, we should have no one but ourselves to blame for not being taken seriously. In these critical times, only by stepping up and taking a clear position can we make our voice heard and make those in charge take us seriously.

The only way Palestinians, inside and outside of Palestine, can fight for democracy is by engaging in democratic practices: in exercising the freedom of speech and criticism without fear, in holding public meetings, in setting up teach-ins, in organising panel discussions, when it becomes necessary, in taking to the street and demonstrating.

Only open criticism and debate can generate the kind of

consensus that would yield political results. Political pressure is possible only when criticism is translated into specific demands.

In the West Bank and Gaza I learned of different informal groups forming within the various organisations, among independents, in the women's movement.

"There is also some criticism of the tendency, in the words of a senior executive, to 'favour trust over competence', by placing loyalists in important positions and ignoring talented but outspoken Palestinians who may question the leadership's absolute authority."

In concluding, I would like to underscore two issues I have indirectly alluded to: the woman question and Islamic fundamentalism.

Without confronting these two problems openly and directly, Arab society, including Palestinian society, will not be able to carry out the radical social change to enable it to deal with the modern world and to enter the 21st century.

The evasiveness and hypocrisy with which even progressive and secular males have treated the woman question can only bring shame on Arab manhood. The essential precondition of liberating the Arab society, including the Arab male himself, is by the politicisation of the women question, that is, by making it a central issue in the struggle for building a new society in Palestine and in the Arab World as a whole.

As for the Muslim fundamentalists, we refuse to deal with them as enemies. They are not enemies but patriots who have laid down their lives for the liberation of Palestine. The way to deal with militant Islam is certainly not through repressive confrontation, as some Arab regimes have chosen to do, but through dialogue and mutual accommodation. The Palestinians will never accept to be an instrument in the West's war against, Islam.

This is why progressive and secular Palestinians should insist on the centrality of these two questions. For on their proper solution will depend not only the kind of society that will be rebuilt in Palestine, but the future and role of Arab and Muslim civilisation in the world.

Volunteer groups working to help Palestinians help themselves

By Rosalind Mandine Murphy

WASHINGTON — International private voluntary organisations (PVOs) are looking to help build social service capabilities and development expertise in the West Bank and Gaza and eventually put themselves "out of business," Bruce Stanley, director of AMIDEAST's development programme in the occupied territories, said Nov. 4.

One problem PVOs are now facing in this regard, however, is the lack of guidelines from the Palestinian leadership, said Mr. Stanley, who is based in Jerusalem and currently on a visit to Washington. He was addressing a luncheon audience at the Centre for Policy Analysis on Palestine.

Mr. Stanley reviewed the role of PVOs in Palestinian development in the wake of the Sept. 13 signing of the Declaration of Principles between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

AMIDEAST is a private, non-profit organisation promoting understanding and cooperation between the United States and the Middle East through education, information and development pro-

grammes.

PVOs are now contending with fast-paced political changes, new priorities and sources of funding and shifting relationships with the Israeli authority and the emerging Palestinian authority in the West Bank and Gaza, said Mr. Stanley.

PVOs in the area are "struggling to understand where we fit in this new situation," he said. While a changing role is inevitable, PVOs are hoping to restructure themselves in order "to make a difference" to the Palestinian people, he stressed.

Once a Palestinian authority is in place, PVOs will have a "more restrictive" role, particularly in policy-making, Mr. Stanley said. He noted that PVOs have long played a role in establishing development policy in the area through the projects they have initiated and funded. This function eventually will be transferred to the Palestinian authority.

However, PVOs expect to continue to nurture emerging Palestinian institutions and help them "improve services to the Palestinian community," Mr. Stanley said. International PVOs also expect to con-

tinue to defend the position of local voluntary organisations in their relations with the authorities and donor governments... they expect to have some input on human capital resources, such as providing training and information," Mr. Stanley added.

For the present, however, PVOs see themselves in a transitional phase. PVOs must begin the process of transferring their roles over to the Palestinian authority and yet hold onto some of their present responsibilities during a transitional period, Mr. Stanley said.

PVOs are trying to balance their "questions about the Palestinian administration's capabilities under difficult circumstances" with their long-held commitment to Palestinian self-determination, he said.

Do PVOs transfer all responsibilities to the Palestinian authority? Do PVOs keep a tight hold on funding development work in the West Bank and Gaza? These are questions PVOs are asking themselves at present, Mr. Stanley said. The answers to these questions for the most part "are in the middle,"

PVOs, he said, have received "little guidelines from the Palestinian leadership... At present, PVOs have taken the initiative and sponsored conferences and meetings to discuss their future role."

"There is no aggression on the other side to set an agenda for us. We would encourage an aggressive dialogue," with the Palestinian leadership, he said — United States Information Agency.

Australia's warm waters produce world's finest pearls

By Robert Holloway
Agence France Presse

BROOME, Australia — There are three things to look for in a pearl, expert Glenice Munro said: "Lustre, more lustre and yet more lustre."

In a poetic crescendo, the Australian Concise Oxford

Dictionary defines lustre as "gloss, radiance... brilliance, radiant beauty."

More down-to-earth, Ms. Munro explained that lustre is caused by "the refraction of light through layers of pearl matter; the thicker the pearl the more lustre."

Up to 18 millimetres in dia-

meter, pearls grown by huge *Pinctada Maxima* oysters in the warm waters off northwest Australia are the largest and considered the finest in the world.

"Japan is the leading producer of pearls, but theirs are of different species and grow from three to eight millimetres," said Ms. Munro.

"Broome produces much smaller quantities," she went on.

"We have a waiting list of three years for people who want to add one pearl to a strand. You cannot put just any pearls together; you have to match them for size and lustre."

Mr. Majali did his best at Saturday's encounter with the press to keep the public guessing about who and how many members the coalition would have. He kept the door open for any deputy-elect to join.

"As you know the winning candidates were mostly those not associated with any political party," he said. "The alliance or coalition currently being formed will be open to all deputies of the centre which represent the vast majority of the new Parliament. Members of other parties and independent deputies are invited to join, Mr. Majali added.

Most of the political and economic programmes of the coalition members are expected to focus on decentralisation, job creation in the deprived regions and a change in the Election Law that would allow members of the Armed Forces to vote. Support for the peace process is expected to be among their demands.

Mr. Majali said the coalition would most likely field a candidate for the House speakership position but did not reveal if he himself would be running.

According to sources close to Mr. Rawabdeh, he is not expected to join the coalition.

The coalition is expected to

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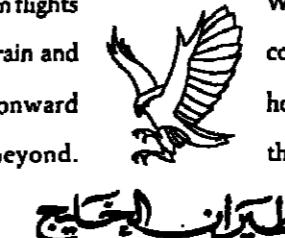
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Kuwait reportedly hesitant on reform

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's government is hesitating to implement economic reforms such as privatisation and cutting the welfare state, an economic consultancy said Saturday.

"It is apparent that the government is still hesitant in taking decisive decisions on economic policy matters," the independent Al Shall Consultancy said in a weekly commentary.

"Privatisation for example has been one of the government's declared policies since (the 1991 Gulf war) liberation, but nothing practical seems to be happening and all because of illogical administration, political and social complications," it said.

Al Shall, whose director Jassem Al Saadoun is an adviser on economics to parliament, said privatisation was "a relatively easy step."

But the government appeared afraid that the process would influence share values on the stock exchange, he said.

It also appeared to be concerned about "the impact of selling petrol stations on

Kuwaiti employees."

"We believe that the inability to take a decision or reach a solution for the most simple cases makes it doubtful that the government will be able to take major decisions at the appropriate time concerning major services and oil," he pointed out.

Al Shall said a similar hesitation applied to plans to lift subsidies on services such as medicine, local telephone calls, fuel, electricity, water and others.

No real policy had been adopted so far to deal with the budget deficit, it said.

The government is due to sell its stake in the petrolium network next year as part of a plan to trim its bloated public sector workforce and stimulate the private sector.

It has hinted it may consider allowing some form of private sector participation in larger parts of the oil sector later.

The government has said privatisation, cuts in the generous oil-funded welfare state and encouraging Kuwaitis to forsake the overstuffed public sector for private business are

necessary to cut the deficit and stimulate the moribund private sector.

The government has projected a 1.223 billion dinar (\$4 billion) deficit for 1993/94 and said it would cover this from its Gulf war-depleted reserves. It projects similar sized deficits for the next four years.

Meanwhile, a Kuwaiti marketing company said Saturday Kuwaiti firms faced growing foreign competition for personal investment business in the emirate.

The government is also in the process of selling off stakes in at least 66 local companies to try to stimulate the stagnant private sector of the economy.

Over the years Kuwaitis have salted away billions of dinars in securities in the industrialised world, much of it through foreign investment companies. Post-war worries about Iraq have encouraged the flight overseas.

State-owned Kuwait Foreign Contracting and Trading Company, in a bid to stimulate the domestic investment market, is due shortly to launch a 25 million dinar (\$82 million) fund that would for the first time enable foreign residents to invest in the Kuwait stock exchange.

Sheikh Subaib said his company marketed investment products.

About 25 commercial banks, state investment companies and insurance firms as well as the stock exchange and central bank would be represented at the conference, he said.

"Some of the services to be exhibited involve deposit accounts, currencies, gold, bonds, shares, mutual funds,

real estate portfolios, life and civil liability insurance and time share products," he said.

Sheikh Subaib said he wanted to boost public awareness of a growing range of Kuwaiti investment products. These were being created to fulfil opportunities flowing from a gradual liberalisation of the banking system and a modest revival in the stock ex-

change.

Both development have been spurred by progress towards a settlement of an 11-year-old bad debt problem stemming from the 1982 collapse of the informal bourse and commercial losses caused by Iraq's 1990-91 occupation.

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Sheikh Subaib said he expected more such funds would be allowed to expand unchecked, Interfax News Agency reported.

"Hasty access for foreign banks, which have vast experience and resources, could leave Russian banks in an unequal position," the report said.

Several senior government officials including First Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar agreed on the need to limit foreign banking operations in Russia which could have "dangerous consequences" if allowed to expand unchecked, Interfax said.

"Hasty access for foreign banks, which have vast experience and resources, could leave Russian banks in an unequal position," the report said.

Top Russian financial officials agreed foreign banks should hold no more than 12 per cent of all statutory capital in the commercial banking sector, it added.

In an interview with the government daily Izvestia, Mr. Gaidar stated that the government was looking at "supplementary steps" to regulate foreign banking activity in Russia.

He said discussion in the government on giving foreign banks greater access to the Russian banking sector was "very delicate and important for the national economy" but added he opposed quickly lifting all restrictions on foreign banks.

The newspaper said five more foreign banks, including Citibank and Chase Manhattan, were recently awarded licenses to operate in Russia.

Wages have not been raised to keep pace with inflation.

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Russia to keep restrictions on foreign banking

BRUSSELS (R) — Chances of the European Commission, the European Community's (EC's) executive, producing a workable plan to boost the bloc's 12 economies and create 20 million jobs within six years seem to be fading.

A synopsis of a commission policy document, due to be handed to EC leaders at a summit next month, calls for annual economic growth of 3.5 per cent, major public spending on road, rail, energy and telecommunications networks, more part-time work, capped wages rises and tax changes to halve the bloc's jobless rate to five per cent by the end of the century.

The white paper (policy document) exercise is very risky because it obliges us to enter highly political territory," Pascal Lamy, chief aide to Commission President Jacques Delors, told a seminar on the bloc's economic and jobs crisis.

Another commission official, who declined to be named, put it even more succinctly. "At the end of the day it is very hard to put across to people the concept that they should accept a cut in their standard of living," the source said. "It is very difficult to see

how this will all work out." Graham Bishop, economist at finance house Salomon Brothers in London, welcomed fewer restrictions on part-time working but said it should not be at the cost of full-time jobs.

"Employers need the flexibility of part-timers. What they do not need is the burden of turning one job into two," he said.

"That would not improve efficiency or competitiveness," he said, adding that policing it would be impossible and making it attractive economically to both employers and employees would be extremely difficult.

The commission has suggested that one way of paying for both the reduction in employment taxes needed to persuade firms to compensate workers for loss of income would be to tax polluters, energy and capital more heavily.

Commission sources, however, accepted that proposals to tax the carbon content of fuel and apply a blanket withholding tax on savings and investment income had scant political backing.

EC Employment Commissioner Padraig Flynn has proposed penalising overtime work to create more jobs.

Rouble crashes as Uzbeks get ready for new money

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan (R)

Soviet-era roubles crashed against the dollar in the Central Asian state of Uzbekistan Saturday as people prepared for the launch of a new transitional currency.

The issue of the interim currency, the sum, is a first step by this former Soviet republic of 22 million people towards monetary independence from Russia, severing ties which bound the Uzbeks to Moscow through 70 years of communism.

Uzbekistan announced Friday that the sum will be used in tandem with old roubles from Monday until a fully fledged national currency is introduced at an unspecified future date.

Officials newspapers Saturday said that 5,000 and 10,000 rouble notes were to be removed from circulation, caus-

ing a rush to dump these denominations and a corresponding plunge in value. The newspapers did not say when the notes will be declared void.

Traders at Tashkent's biggest open-air market were offering 15,000 to 18,000 pre-1993 roubles per U.S. dollar. On Friday the rate was 8,000 to the dollar, and one week ago it was 4,000.

The traders were also eager to buy Russian roubles printed since the beginning of this year, which look different from the pre-1993 rouble. Some offered 12 "old" roubles for one new.

"This rouble is falling every half hour," said an Uzbek student.

Russia declared all pre-1993 banknotes invalid on its territory in July in a move tanta-

mount to the introduction of its own national currency, which is now worth 1,180 to the dollar. Old roubles have continued to circulate in a number of former Soviet republics.

Many Uzbek shops closed Saturday, free market prices skyrocketed and hundreds of people stood in queues outside savings banks hoping to deposit their 5,000 and 10,000 notes.

Bread prices at the market rose to 500 roubles a loaf, up from 150 roubles early this week. Meat cost 10,000 roubles a kilogramme, up from 2,500, and cabbages were going for 500 roubles each, against 250 roubles early this week.

The newspaper said five more foreign banks, including Citibank and Chase Manhattan, were recently awarded licenses to operate in Russia.

Wages have not been raised to keep pace with inflation.

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Belarus leaders clash over economic reforms

MINSK (R) — Belarusian leader Stanislav Shushkevich accused his conservative prime minister Friday of blocking reforms and called for major changes to the former Soviet republic's government.

Prime Minister Vladislav Kebich rejected the allegations, saying he stood for "evolutionary reforms" to overturn seven decades of communist economics.

Mr. Shushkevich, who has been leading calls for parliamentary elections next year, called for privatisation of two-thirds of the state-dominated economy. He also said Belarus had to maintain a joint financial system with neighbouring Russia.

"The government is making no effort to launch market reforms," he told parliament. "Rather it is calling for rebirth

of old lines of management."

Mr. Shushkevich, chairman of parliament, has been waging virtually a single-handed battle against Mr. Kebich and parliament in favour of the fast-track reforms under way in Russia for more than a year.

But he has also denounced parliament's decision earlier this year to form a political and military alliance with Moscow rather than stay neutral like Ukraine.

Opposition parties earlier this week called for the government's resignation and hundreds of their supporters staged noisy demonstrations in front of parliament.

Mr. Shushkevich said forming a common financial system with Russia would generate spin-offs in investment and help Belarus cope better with reforms.

Malaysian finance minister presents 'sorcerer's budget'

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia's finance minister has presented a budget for 1994 that is almost fiscal sorcery — cutting taxes, increasing spending while balancing the books, officials and analysts have said.

"It's a remarkable achievement," said Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad after Anwar Ibrahim announced that the 1993 national budget had been balanced for the first time in the history of independent Malaysia and 1994's would show a negligible deficit.

"It's a bit of financial sorcery that can only happen when you get eight per cent growth for five or six consecutive years."

said one Asian diplomat.

The finance ministry has projected that Malaysia's gross domestic product would grow at least 8.0 per cent in 1993 and 8.2 per cent in 1994, or about the same pace it has been galloping at since 1988.

The current account surplus in the balance of payments is expected to strengthen to 1.5 billion ringgit in 1994 (\$590 million) from \$1 billion (\$290 million) this year — the first surplus in four years.

The budget cuts company income taxes to 32 per cent in 1994 and to 30 per cent in 1995, increases spending on infrastructure projects by 16 per cent, and reduces import

duties on more than 500 consumer items.

The government last month announced that it was setting up a watchdog body to make sure that retailers pass on the cuts in import duties to consumers to keep inflation in check.

The finance ministry said inflation would ease to 3.8 per cent this year and 3.5 per cent in 1994 from 4.7 per cent last year.

But with unemployment at three per cent of the workforce, Malaysia basically is in full employment, and must worry about an overheating economy, Mr. Anwar said.

"Inflation continues to be of concern in view of the tight

labour situation, the pressure on wages and increase in aggregate demand," he said.

The president of the Malaysian Investors Association P.H.S. Lim said the corporate cuts could save between 500 million and one billion ringgit (\$195-\$390 million) for companies on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE).

The KLSE has been one of the world's best performing exchanges. Its composite index has jumped more than 50 per cent from 632.83 at the beginning of the year to 971.99 at the close of trading last month.

Labour unions and women's groups applauded the tax breaks for employers who promote child care centres for their

own impetus.

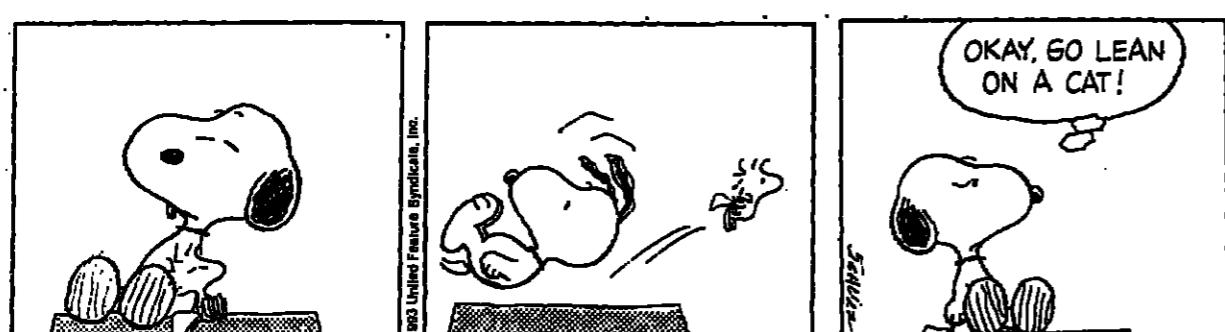
Environmental groups welcomed the three Malaysian-centre reduction in the price of unleaded petrol and the duty exemption on imported catalytic converters, which are used to control automobile emissions.

Mr. Anwar reduced the petroleum income tax to 40 per cent from 45 per cent to stimulate the oil industry.

"The reduction is timely," the state-owned Petronas oil company said in a statement. "We are now looking at a less bullish oil price prospect, at least in the next five to 10 years, compared to the outlook during the 1980s."

Labour unions and women's groups applauded the tax breaks for employers who promote child care centres for their

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n Jeff



THE BETTER HALF

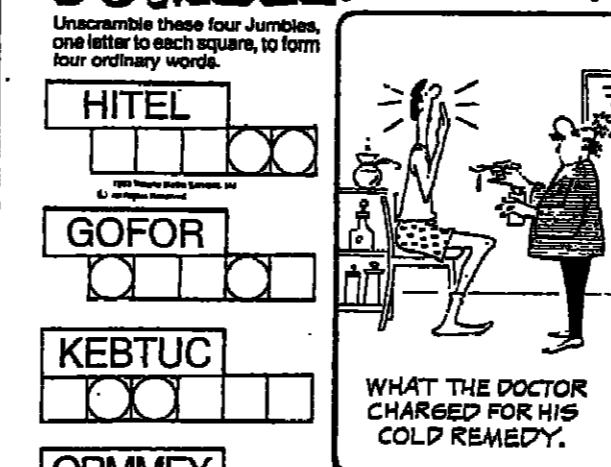
By Glasbergen



"Did you see my ad in the Personals? Lonely wife seeks talkative man for mealtime conversation!"

JUMBLE

By Henri Arnold and Mike Argilton



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: ENVOY HUMAN VERMIN HINDER

Answer: How Edgar Allan Poe left the audience — RAVEN

THE Daily Crossword

by Kenneth V. Holden

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1993 7

Albania seeks UAE support for oil reforms

ABUDHABI (R) — Albania, Europe's poorest nation, has asked the United Arab Emirates for cash and expertise to develop its oil sector crippled by decades of communism.

Deputy prime minister for economic reforms Bashkin Koliu has said that Albania was preparing to offer offshore exploration concessions to foreign firms and wanted to develop associated gas production.

"We need their (UAE) help in rebuilding gas and petroleum fields and coinvestment," he told Reuters in Abu Dhabi, where he met UAE Oil Minister Yousef Bin Omeri Bin Yusuf.

Mr. Koliu, who was the first Albanian government minister to visit the Gulf Arab state, said he asked for soft loans and technology from the UAE to develop the oil sector. He said Albania was preparing to divide its onshore oilfields in the south of the country into plots and invite concession agreements from foreign companies.

Mr. Koliu said Albania was trying to attract investments under a law passed last

week that allows foreigners to invest on equal terms with Albanians. Investors now have the freedom to transfer capital out of the country in any convertible currency.

Former regulations, which lacked proper legal guarantees, came into effect in August 1992, less than two years after Albania ended four decades of communist rule.

"We have some gas production in the south, but there are hopes that we develop gas. We are looking at... the optimum way of heating Albania — gas, liquid gas or kerosene," he said.

Albania's oil production peaked in 1974 with 18.2 million barrels per year but fell to 4.03 million barrels in 1992 — just half the oil produced every day by the world's largest producer, Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Koliu said current production was 600,000 tonnes per year (4.36 million barrels), all of it from onshore fields.

It has granted offshore concessions on its Adriatic coast to five Western oil firms including companies from Germany, the United States and Italy, he said.

Egypt needs more economic reforms

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's central bankers, who not so long ago were scraping every last dollar together, could hardly have dreamt there would come a day when they had too much money at their disposal.

But that is exactly what the long-sided success of economic reforms have created — a huge, stagnant lake of money that is beginning to leak at the edges.

Economists now fear that without public sector reform and privatisation to help the real economy catch up and provide promising investment opportunities, Egypt could suffer capital flight that will unravel the gains.

"All the achievements of the

past two years are reversible. The money that came in could go out again and we could face dollarisation again," said Eissam Rifat, editor of the leading economic journal Al Ahram Al Iqtisadi.

"The next six months are a big challenge. Money is ready to invest, it's just looking for the right chance. Not even the right chance, it's looking for any chance at all," he emphasised.

The reform programme, backed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, started in 1991. Its fiscal and monetary changes have achieved startling success. Structural reforms to the real economy have lagged painfully

behind.

All the capital Egypt needs to fund its long-awaited boom and more — some 160 billion Egyptian pounds (\$50 billion) — sits in the country's bank vaults piling up interest.

Egypt's financial health has never been sounder. Freed interest and exchange rates have allowed the central bank to build up record foreign exchange reserves of \$14 billion.

Government planners who used to worry about where the next wheat shipment was coming from now chat expansively about how they play the markets with cash.

Egypt's once yawning budget deficit is set to drop to 3.5 per cent this financial year, comparing favourably with most of the Western donor countries.

But the real economy is entering its third year of slump. Unemployment is chronic and health and education — the "human resources" that development economists now consider key to long-term growth — continue to deteriorate under the weight of Egypt's population explosion.

The missing element is public sector reform and privatisation. Businessmen say these are the key to creating both investment opportunities and long-term confidence.

Government fears that rapid reform will cause unemployment and political upheaval are looking in a vicious and self-perpetuating circle.

Without privatisation, which may include lay-offs, there will be little investment. Without

investment, there will be no growth and without growth there will be no other jobs for those in the public sector to go to.

Meanwhile, Cairo's political leadership, with little experience of the marketplace, talk proudly of the stable pound and the money that has poured in as a permanent and natural feature of Egypt's new economic policies rather than the specific product of high interest rates that may not last.

Planners dispute the idea that the money inflows are volatile or looking for investment. "Most of this is savings come home. Depositors do not want to play the stock market," said one official.

But signs are that the money is restless and ready to move.

Egypt's two public share flotations this year. By Misr Chemicals Company and Commercial International Bank (CIB), were hugely oversubscribed. CIB raised over \$110 million in a 10-day share offer in August.

Cairo's stock market has risen by nearly 30 per cent over the past 18 months but is still woefully incapable of channelling large sums of money into productive industries. The 13 brokers trade a few million pounds (dollars) worth of shares a week.

Traders say they cannot explain a 10 per cent rise in gold this year after it stayed stable for years.

Developers report that land speculation is pushing prices of luxury holiday apartments up by up to 50 per cent per year.

Saudi Arabia may privatise telephones

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia is studying the possibility of privatising its telephone company, Industry Minister Abdul Aziz Al Zamel was quoted Saturday as saying.

The United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Khaleej said Sheikh Zamel was speaking in an interview during the meeting in Abu Dhabi earlier this week.

The actual deficit for the year reached almost \$11 billion. It is budgeting for a \$3.5 billion deficit in 1993.

IMF forecasts indicate that unless changes are introduced, state finances will weaken further in 1994 and 1995, even if oil revenues rise slightly.

Economists say oil revenues are currently running at about \$3 billion a month, well below peaks of over \$4 billion a month in 1992. They say this however remains a massive income.



JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET					
HOUSING BANK CENTRAL BANK OF JORDAN					
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 13/11/1993					
COMPANY'S NAME					
TRADED VOLUME	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	TRADED VOLUME	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ABRA BANK	136,990	182,800	181,400	180,000	180,000
AGRICULTURAL BANK	6,130	6,200	6,150	6,150	6,150
BANK OF JORDAN	33,100	34,100	34,100	34,100	34,100
BANK OF JORDAN INVESTMENT	438	4,410	4,380	4,380	4,380
BEST HOLDING BANK	107,600	4,900	4,900	4,900	4,900
BEST HOLDING BANK	16,310	5,700	5,650	5,650	5,650
BEST HOLDING BANK	1,000	4,040	4,000	4,000	4,000
BEST HOLDING BANK	3,380	4,250	4,250	4,250	4,250
BEST HOLDING BANK	22,713	1,790	1,770	1,780	1,780
BEST HOLDING BANK	1,700	3,850	3,850	3,850	3,850
BEST HOLDING BANK	2,887	1,420	3,390	3,410	3,410
BEST HOLDING BANK	2,150	2,290	2,270	2,270	2,270
BEST HOLDING BANK	6,224	1,240	1,240	1,240	1,240
BEST HOLDING BANK	21,238	1,190	1,190	1,190	1,190
BEST HOLDING BANK	1,283	1,000	1,010	1,010	1,010
BEST HOLDING BANK	723	14,400	14,300	14,500	14,500
BEST HOLDING BANK	4,280	2,950	2,950	2,950	2,950
BEST HOLDING BANK	2,387	2,380	2,380	2,380	2,380
BEST HOLDING BANK	232	22,900	23,000	23,000	23,000
BEST HOLDING BANK	2,100	9,900	9,900	9,900	9,900
BEST HOLDING BANK	1,900	7,950	7,950	7,950	7,950
BEST HOLDING BANK	6,700	7,900	7,900	7,900	7,900
BEST HOLDING BANK	4,773	7,400	7,300	7,350	7,350
BEST HOLDING BANK	3,285	7,250	7,250	7,250	7,250
BEST HOLDING BANK	490	6,430	6,450	6,450	6,450
BEST HOLDING BANK	18,295	10,200	10,200	10,200	10,200
BEST HOLDING BANK	31,309	10,200	10,200	10,180	10,180
BEST HOLDING BANK	1,770	6,440	6,420	6,420	6,420
BEST HOLDING BANK	8,160	5,150	5,100	5,100	5,100
BEST HOLDING BANK	2,438	2,950	2,430	2,430	2,430
BEST HOLDING BANK	36,400	7,100	7,100	7,100	7,100
BEST HOLDING BANK	5,140	5,100	5,100	5,100	5,100
BEST HOLDING BANK	563	3,380	3,350	3,350	3,350
BEST HOLDING BANK	929	1,380	1,370	1,370	1,370
BEST HOLDING BANK	7,809	2,950	2,950	2,950	2,950
GRAND TOTAL					
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET					
43256					
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET					
61107					

Financial Markets Jordan Times
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Currency Interest Rates					
Date: 12/11/1993					
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	3.00	5.31	5.37	5.65	
Sterling Pound	5.75	5.62	5.44	5.44	
Deutsche Mark	6.25	6.12	5.81	5.43	
Swiss Franc	4.44	4.44	4.18	3.93	
French Franc	6.80	6.71	6.31	5.75	
Japanese Yen	2.43	2.31	2.15	2.09	
European Currency Unit	7.06	6.95	6.56	6.18	
Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.					

Precious Metals					
Date: 12/11/1993					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	575.45	7.35	Silver	4.55	0.100
24 karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin					
Date: 13/11/1993					

World News

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1998

Sri Lankan troops reinforce besieged northern military base

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan reinforcements linked up with troops defending a strategic military base besieged by Tamil rebels in the northern Jaffna peninsula Saturday, a military spokesman said.

Some 250 soldiers and sailors have been killed and 150 are missing according to military sources after three days of heavy fighting at the Ponneryn Camp, scene of the army's worst setback in the decade-long war with separatists.

"The reinforcements have linked up with a group of about 700 people," said military spokesman Brigadier Nalin Angammanna. He said they were looking for a second group of troops at the camp.

Brig. Angammanna said the landing had not met with any resistance from the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"It was all quiet. It looks like

they have gone away from that area," Brig Angammanna said.

He said fighting had subsided around the camp on the shores of the Jaffna lagoon.

"Once the reinforcements have stabilised we will send more in," he said.

Earlier Saturday, about 100 troops landed by sea and air at Ponneryn, Brig. Angammanna said the first group landed by sea west of Ponneryn and set up a beachhead. The others would now follow he said about 1,400 men were defending the camp.

Reinforcements could not be sent earlier because of fierce rebel resistance and bad weather.

The Defence Ministry said troops beat back three attempts to penetrate the base Friday night. "Technical sources indicate that the LTTE... has lost about 400 cadres up to now, which includes some senior cadres."

Bhutto nominee wins Pakistani presidential vote

ISLAMABAD (R) — Legislators elected Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's nominee, Foreign Minister Farooq Leghari, as Pakistan's new president Saturday with an overwhelming majority.

Initial counting in the complicated voting system gave Mr. Leghari 275.5 votes to 167 for his opponent, acting President Wasim Sajjad, the candidate of Ms. Bhutto's arch-rival and predecessor Nawaz Sharif.

"This is an hour of great victory," a jubilant Bhutto told reporters after voting by the electoral college of legislators from the National Assembly (lower house), Senate and four provincial assemblies.

The election of Mr. Leghari as president for five years is a vindication of our struggle to establish democracy and return stability to the country," Ms. Bhutto said.

The voting had been the first real test of strength for Ms. Bhutto's fledgling coalition government that took office last month after her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) emerged as the largest party in fiercely fought general elections.

Results from the four provincial assemblies were still being calculated but in the southern province of Sind, Mr. Leghari won 39 votes to 1.5 for Mr. Sajjad.

In Punjab, initial results showed the foreign minister had taken a lead of 10 votes while in Baluchistan the voting ended in a dead heat, officials said. Mr. Sajjad scrapped to a win in the North West Frontier Province. Each province has 43 votes.

Empowered to dissolve parliament, the president is one of the informal triumvirate, with the prime minister and army chief, that runs the country.

Diplomats say Ms. Bhutto asked the widely respected deputy leader of the PPP to run for president to ensure her government, Pakistan's third in five years, has a better chance of completing its five-year term.

The Oxford-educated Leghari, a feudal and tribal leader from the fringes of lawless Baluchistan, told Reuters Friday he would put party politics behind him and act as an impartial head of state, ready to seek consensus with the opposition and to guard his own powers.

"I would reach out if I'm elected to all political forces, all interest groups, all citizens, and bring them together to work for Pakistan," Mr. Leghari said. "No one should be excluded from that."

Mr. Leghari, 53, is Ms. Bhutto's most trusted confidant and a protege of her father, Pakistan's first popularly elected Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. He became the leading contender after four other candidates pulled out late Thursday.

Legislators voted in the old National Assembly Hall, dusted off for the session after the parliament building was gutted by fire Tuesday.

Ms. Bhutto dismissed fears that a PPP president and prime minister would result in an authoritarian administration.

"The PPP has always fought against repression," she said.

"We expect Farooq Leghari to be as good as anyone and to be impartial," said Sartaj Aziz, secretary general of Sharif's government.

This sword of Damocles hanging over the parliament of presidential dissolution must be removed," said Mr. Leghari, who spent a total of four years in prison during the 1977-88 rule as president of General Mohammad Zia-Ul-Haq.

"We've had the office of president used to subvert the constitution, to unsettle government," Mr. Leghari said.

"The time has come for stability, for political unity and economic development."

Analysts predict attack by N. Korea

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — North Korea is preparing a major military strike against South Korea and Japan, coordinated with action by Syria and Iran and with the support of China, a conservative analyst said Friday.

The U.S. State Department a week ago denied reports that there had been unusual troop activity in North Korea, and officials said Friday that nothing had changed.

Yossef Bodansky gave his analysis in a news conference and in a paper for the American Security Council Foundation, a private conservative think tank. He said Pyongyang, under the de facto rule of Kim Jong Il, is planning "a dramatic breakout from



A Bosnian child is carried on a stretcher by U.N. soldiers to board a U.N. flight out of Sarajevo. (AP photo)

told their tales," a UNHCR spokesman said. "We had no way of independently verifying reports of atrocities but they all told similar and consistent stories."

In Sarajevo, the United Nations feared a new confrontation between Muslim and Serb forces on Mount Igman, which overlooks the Bosnian capital.

Canadian and Danish peacekeepers equipped with armor and infantry were put on alert Saturday morning to aid the Fojnicica and Bakovici hospitals if necessary.

There are 576 patients trapped in the hospitals five kilometers apart in freezing mountains west of Sarajevo.

They are on the front line of a northward offensive launched by Bosnian Croats with Serb help to secure links with Croat-held Vitez and Kiseljak.

Mortar bombs and shells have exploded this week in the grounds of the Bakovici Hospital, trapped in a valley between the two sides, despite U.N. efforts to protect it.

Canadian army Captain George Petrelas told reporters

that they could react with canon fire, artillery and mortars," he added.

A small U.N. peacekeeping force is stationed between the two sides on the mountain, which was a main Muslim supply route into Sarajevo until Serbs captured it during the summer.

Russian envoy Italy Churkin met members of the Bosnian leadership in Sarajevo to discuss ways of reviving peace talks between the three sides in the conflict.

Analysts predict attack by N. Korea

region as one of the tensest in the world, but have expressed no alarm over recent developments.

"North Korea has long deployed the bulk of its forces in heavily fortified positions north of the demilitarized zone and south of a line running from Pyongyang, the capital, to Wonsan, a major port on the east coast," the department said last week.

"We know of no unusual troop movements or deployment of forces near the DMZ which separate North and South Korea," it said.

Mr. Bodansky, who has gathered information from unnamed Middle, Soviet, Chinese and Korean sources.

Analysts predict attack by N. Korea

ideological deadlock and a collapsing economy."

"The timing of such an attack, if one occurs, will be coordinated with Syria and Iran in order to overwhelm the U.S. and the West," he said. He did not detail what the role of Iran and Syria would be.

Major coordinated military strikes were planned by North Korea and Iran on U.S. election day in November 1992, he said, but the North Koreans "got cold feet."

Mr. Bodansky, who directs a Republican congressional task force on terrorism, said North Korean leader Kim Il Sung, 81, is near death and has effectively passed power on to his son, who is 51.

U.S. officials describe the

N. Jersey Democrats seek to have governor election overturned

NEWARK, New Jersey (R) — The New Jersey Democratic Party said Friday it will ask a judge to overturn the election for governor because of allegations that Republicans tried to suppress black votes, and the Justice Department said it was launching an investigation into the scandal.

According to the civil lawsuit by the Democrats, the victory of Republican Christine Whitman by less than 28,000 votes was in part due to a racially discriminatory strategy of trying to discourage blacks from voting for Democrat Jim Florio, the incumbent.

A hearing will be held Monday in connection with the civil suit.

The scandal erupted Tuesday when Ed Rollins, chief campaign strategist for Mr. Whitman, said \$500,000 in campaign funds had been funnelled through black ministers to keep the black vote down.

The ministers were allegedly urged to refrain from the usual practice of calling out the vote. Most black voters favour Democratic candidates.

Separately, the U.S. attorney for New Jersey announced the first criminal investigation into the matter.

"We are opening an investigation into possible federal criminal violations in connection with these allegations," U.S. Attorney Michael Chernoff said at a news conference.

While noting that there have been public allegations of voter suppression, he stressed at a news conference that "the investigation is at a very preliminary stage."

Chernoff said his probe would focus only on whether there had been violations of federal criminal law and would not look into whether there were any ethical violations.

The scandal has grown even though Mr. Rollins retracted his statement Wednesday, and Ms. Whitman has adamantly denied that any dirty tricks had been used in the campaign.

On Friday, Ms. Whitman and representatives of black clergymen joined ranks to denounce reports that black preachers were bribed.

After a closed-door meeting, Ms. Whitman, a group of New Jersey black ministers and civil rights leader the Reverend Jesse Jackson held a joint news conference.

Rev. Jackson said, "we are not satisfied. That's why we are asking for a thorough and complete investigation."

But he said Ms. Whitman's cooperation and her denial that she was involved in any of the alleged tactics satisfied him, and that black ministers will not include her in a class-action lawsuit they intend to file against Mr. Rollins.

Ms. Whitman said, "I welcome any investigation. It is the only way to establish that we had nothing to do with what

7-year-old brings gun to school in knapsack

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A seven-year-old boy brought a loaded 9mm semiautomatic pistol to class in his knapsack at a San Francisco elementary school, officials said. The second-grade student at Commodore Stockton Elementary School boasted to companions during morning recess Thursday that he had a gun in his backpack, according to police officer David Boyett, who was called to the school. Other children alerted teachers, who found the gun, locked it in the principal's closet and called police. Officer Boyett said one bullet was in the chamber and seven bullets were in the gun's magazine. If the safety catch had been knocked off and the trigger pulled, eight shots could have been fired, he said. "Thank God, no one was hurt," he said. Police are investigating how the gun found its way into the knapsack. News reports quoted school officials as saying the gun was believed to belong to a relative of the child, whose name was not released. School principal Helen Chin said the child never took the gun out of the backpack, no one was hurt and there was no danger to the 740 children at the school.

Boston police make arrest in old murder case

BOSTON (AP) — A man wanted for a slaying at a racetrack nearly 25 years ago was arrested after detectives located him by playing with combinations of names he was known to use. Earl J. Clark, 49, was arrested Wednesday in Dayton, Ohio, where he had lived for the past 15 years. He had been using the name Stacey E. Griffin for the past 24 years, since soon after the Feb. 22, 1969, killing of Carl Carothers. Detective Lt. Stephen Murray said two factors led to finding Mr. Clark.

"We started to play alphabet soup with the different names he was known to use. His nickname was Stacey and his mother's name was Griffin. We tried different combinations of the name in every state in the country," he said. Lt. Murray said the "cold case" squad, which specializes in long-unresolved murders, also found out Mr. Clark had served in the military and was able to get a set of his fingerprints from the Defense Department. The prints matched with the Stacey E. Griffin in Dayton. Mr. Clark was a suspect from the beginning in the death of Mr. Carothers, 24, said Capt. Edward J. McNeal, homicide unit commander.

Wedding surprise thwarted at Canadian border

ST. STEPHEN, New Brunswick (R) — Royce Smith's hope of surprising his girlfriend with a wedding proposal was derailed at the Canadian border when customs officials seized his hidden engagement ring. Mr. Smith, of Gardiner, Maine, was forced to pop the question to his tearful fiancée with a border guard watching. Then he was told it would cost him \$730 in penalties and duties to get the ring back. Mr. Smith was crossing the border last week from Calais, Maine, with his girlfriend Alison Teed, a Canadian citizen, when customs officials searched the car and discovered the \$1,400 diamond ring hidden in a bag. Mr. Smith said Thursday he tried to explain to the guard that he had not declared the ring at the border because he intended to surprise Teed. "A proposal supposed to be something you'll remember for the rest of your life," said Mr. Smith. "We'll remember this, but not the way we might want to."

Lions cold, hungry in cash-strapped Russian zoo

MOSCOW (R) — A private zoo in the Russian city of Chelyabinsk has run so short of money that its lions are threatened with death from cold and hunger, ITAR-TASS news agency said Saturday. It quoted a local newspaper as saying the animals were being kept in a hastily-built enclosure made from wooden boards and slate, and the director of the private company was short of money for heating and food. A local bank in the Urals city of Yekaterinburg donated cash when it found out about the lions' plight. "But this money is not enough for the whole winter and the newspaper is appealing to nature lovers to help the hapless private businessmen save the animals," TASS said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Haiti minister challenges army's power

PORTE-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (R) — Haitian Defence Minister Jean Beliotto told intransigent army officers he had legitimate power and challenged them to have him arrested, as they had threatened. Responding to a letter in which the army's chief of staff threatened Mr. Beliotto with "prison for 10 days starting the day you leave your post," the defence minister shot back, saying he was the legitimate boss. "I must remind you that you are not the chief of a military government and I am not the defence minister in your military government," Mr. Beliotto wrote in a letter to army leader Lieutenant-General Raoul Cedras. "Tomorrow you can arrest me... but remember I have and always will have legality," Mr. Beliotto said in the letter, which was read out on Haitian radio. In correspondence dated Nov. 8, army hardliner Brigadier General Philippe Biambry called the retired general a "coward" and "a permanent threat to the institution." He also accused Mr. Beliotto of "having a plan to destroy the armed forces."

Actor River Phoenix 'died from drugs'

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actor River Phoenix had lethal levels of cocaine and morphine in his body when he died after collapsing outside a Hollywood nightclub last month, a coroner's spokesman said Friday. Scott Carrier said Phoenix, who had previously been known as a clean living, strict vegetarian, died of "acute multiple drug intoxication." "The manner of death is ruled as accidental," said Mr. Carrier, spokesman for the Los Angeles County Coroner's office. Mr. Carrier said the young star's body also contained valium and marijuana. Phoenix, 23, who first received public acclaim in 1986 in the coming-of-age movie, *Stand By Me*, and who received an Academy Award nomination for his work in the 1988 film, *Running On Empty*, collapsed outside the Viper room nightclub shortly after midnight on Oct. 31 and died in a hospital less than an hour later. Phoenix was attending a Halloween party at the popular club, which is part-owned by actor Johnny Depp and is frequented by young Hollywood stars, when he started having massive seizures, according to police reports.

China warns Taiwan on hijackers

BEIJING (AFP) — The Chinese government warned Saturday that Taiwan would pay "serious consequences" unless it changed its policy and returned the hijackers of seven planes to the island since April. The State Council's Taiwan Affairs Office, in a statement read on state-run television, said Taiwan's policy of holding on to hijackers for trial violated agreements and endangered air travellers, including those from Taiwan. Unless Taiwan changed the policy, it said, "the Taiwan authorities would be held responsible for all the serious consequences arising from them." Separately, Chinese police said the hijackers of the seventh plane were "debt dodgers," and rejected their claims of having joined the 1989 pro-democracy movement. "Sources from the Public Security Ministry said that the hijackers fled to Taiwan in order to escape from debts and their own financial calamities on the mainland," the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Police seek to scare voters — Mandela

OHLANGE, South Africa (R) — ANC leader Nelson Mandela alleged Saturday police were seeking to scare away non-white voters in South Africa's first all-race poll in April. Mr. Mandela, kicking off campaigning in volatile Natal province, told several thousand supporters gathered at a dusty football ground that President F.W. De Klerk and the Internal Stability Unit (ISU) riot police were waging war against them. "Although Mr. De Klerk is in discussions with us he is actually waging a war against our people," Mr. Mandela said at a rally in a poor squatter area 20 kilometers north of Durban. "It is a unit which wages war against our people. The purpose of the ISU is to frighten blacks and Indians away from the poll," the African National Congress (ANC) leader added. The ANC

Russia plans new security unit

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's Security Ministry is proposing to create a special new unit to counter the activities of extremist groups posing as political parties, a senior official said Saturday. "In the anti-terrorism department we propose to create a new unit whose duties would include detecting, preventing and suppressing the anti-constitutional activity of extremist groups posing as political parties and social movements," First Deputy Security Minister Sergei Stepashin said. He told the newspaper Rossiiskaya Gazeta in an interview that President Boris Yeltsin had personally undermined the importance of improving intelligence on extremist groups. Mr. Stepashin said there would be changes to the work of the Security Ministry — formerly the KGB security police — but no "purge" of its employees. The ministry's role has come under close scrutiny in recent months. Its former head, Viktor Baranikov, was sacked by Mr. Yeltsin in July and has since been jailed as an alleged leader of an armed revolt against the president in October.

Berlin rail line reopens

BERLIN (R) — Berlin's oldest underground rail line, divided for three decades by Europe's East-West split, was reopened Saturday at a ceremony directly beneath the one-time death strip where the Berlin Wall had stood. The U-2 line, which linked three districts in the East with three in the West when it opened in 1902, was severed when East German Communists built the Berlin Wall in 1961.

Sports

Bulgaria wins 2nd weightlifting gold

MELBOURNE (R) — Bulgarian Nikolai Peshalov's last-minute decision to compete in the World Weightlifting Championships paid off when he won a gold medal in the 59 kg class Saturday.

Peshalov's wife Kudka is expecting their first child in the next few days and he agonised over whether to stay with her or travel to Melbourne.

"In the end I thought I would come and there maybe I could have double celebration," said Peshalov after winning his second world title.

"If the baby is a girl I will call her Victoria after my victory tonight, but if it is a boy I will let my wife decide."

Peshalov set a world record in the new 59 kg class when he lifted 167.5 kg in the clean and jerk, which gave him a combined total with the snatch of 305 kg, also a new world mark.

Peshalov was a silver medalist at the 1992 Olympics in the old 60 kg class when he lost out to Turkey's Naim Suleymanoglu, known as the "pocket Hercules."

Suleymanoglu's namesake and fellow countryman Hafiz Suleymanoglu won the silver medal. Like Naim, he fled to Turkey, defecting from Azerbaijan in 1989 after winning the old 56 kg world title in the old 56 kg class in Athens.

His total was 10 kg short of Peshalov's mark.

China's Tang Ningsheng won the bronze medal with a combined total of 292.5 kg — the same as two other lifters, including Chun Yian-Kwan, Olympic champion in the old 56 kg class.

The South Korean found it difficult moving up to the heavier weight and virtually ruled himself out of the medals

when he finished seventh in the snatch competition, 7.5 kgs behind Peshalov.

Chun, South Korea's first Olympic weightlifting gold medalist, missed out on a medal because he weighed 0.05 of a kilo more than Ningsheng.

The International Weightlifting Federation, which also counts an Olympic gold as a world title, changed the weight divisions at the beginning of the year in an effort to clean up the sport as many previous world records were believed to be drug-aided.

Sunday's competition sees the "pocket Hercules," small in stature but big in drawing power, compete in the new 64 kg class.

It will be Bulgarian-born Suleymanoglu's first major competition since winning his second Olympic gold medal in Barcelona last year.

Earlier, Chinese teenager Liu Xiuhan crushed all opposition with just three lifts to pick up her second consecutive world title on the second day of the World Weightlifting Championships.

Xiuhan, 18, won the new 50kg class with a combined total lift of 187.5 kg, a world record in the new division and a clear 10 kg over her nearest rival, compatriot Guan Hong.

The language student added the world title to the 48kg world title she won last year in Sofia, with her last lift of 110 kg in the clean and jerk competition which also set a new world mark in the new category.

Xiuhan, from Guangdong, said she only lifted once in the snatch competition because she wanted her friend Guan Hong to win the gold for the snatch, although both lifters

raised 77.5 kg, which also set a new world mark.

Hong won the snatch as she weighs less than Xiuhan.

"I think I could have gone higher. But she (Hong) is a good friend of mine and I wanted her to do well," Xiuhan told reporters after winning the gold medal.

Hong caused controversy on the first day of the competition when she failed to show up for the weigh-in for the 46 kg class, where she had been favourite to pick up the gold.

Xiuhan and Hong lived up to predictions that Chinese women are expected to dominate these championships, after winning 26 of the 27 medals on offer at the 1992 world titles.

Chu-Chun Kuo maintained Taiwan's strong start at the titles when she picked up the bronze with a combined lift of 170 kg after coming third in both the snatch and jerk categories.

Nan-Mei Chu and Shiu-Fen Yu won gold and silver respectively for Taiwan in the 46 kg class Friday, the first day of the 10-day championships.

It is the seventh year of the women's world titles and the first time they have been held together with the men's world titles.

That ban was waived after Russia paid the \$50,000 fine.

Polyakov declined to name the four, but told a Russian sports journalist that the federation was considering how to punish them.

Official sources said the best-known of the four were Igor Kachurin, a European champion in 1992, and Russian champion Averin Davtyan.

The payment of the fine so strained the Russian Federation's finances that it was forced to cut its delegation to Melbourne from 16 to nine — six lifters, two trainers and a doctor.

Meanwhile, IWF Secretary-General Tamás Aján said Russia would remain competing at the world weightlifting titles despite four more Russian lifters failing doping tests.

The four are in addition to three Russian lifters caught for drug use last month.

Russian Weightlifting Federation chief Victory Polyakov said in Moscow Friday that four lifters had been caught using anabolic steroids just after the National Championships.

Aján said the test results would not force Russia's exit from the world titles, though under IWF rules a nation faces an automatic one-year ban or a \$50,000 fine if three of its lifters test positive within one calendar year.

These are national tests. They are a national issue that do not concern the IWF," Aján told reporters.

"It is our policy to encourage national federations to make tests at home and release of these results are showing that the Russians are cooperating with us (IWF)."

Tournament organisers said they were stunned by the news, but believed none of the four lifters were entered in the world titles. Russian officials were unavailable for comment.

The four, previously unpublicised cases follow positive dope tests on three other Russian weightlifters — Maxim Agapitov, Andrei Matveyev and Ramzan Musayev — that led to Russia being initially banned from the World championships.

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Russian Weightlifting Federation chief Victory Polyakov said in Moscow Friday that four lifters had been caught using anabolic steroids just after the National Championships.

Aján said the test results would not force Russia's exit from the world titles, though under IWF rules a nation faces an automatic one-year ban or a \$50,000 fine if three of its lifters test positive within one calendar year.

These are national tests. They are a national issue that do not concern the IWF," Aján told reporters.

"It is our policy to encourage national federations to make tests at home and release of these results are showing that the Russians are cooperating with us (IWF)."

Tournament organisers said they were stunned by the news, but believed none of the four lifters were entered in the world titles. Russian officials were unavailable for comment.

The four, previously unpublicised cases follow positive dope tests on three other Russian weightlifters — Maxim Agapitov, Andrei Matveyev and Ramzan Musayev — that led to Russia being initially banned from the World championships.

Aján said the ban was waived after Russia paid the \$50,000 fine.

Polyakov declined to name the four, but told a Russian sports journalist that the federation was considering how to punish them.

Official sources said the best-known of the four were Igor Kachurin, a European champion in 1992, and Russian champion Averin Davtyan.

The payment of the fine so strained the Russian Federation's finances that it was forced to cut its delegation to Melbourne from 16 to nine — six lifters, two trainers and a doctor.

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Qadhafi: Sanctions pretext for colonising Arab states

CAIRO (Agencies) — "Oil makes the West's mouth water," Muammar Qadhafi said in dismissing new international sanctions on Libya as just another Western pretext to colonise the Arabs.

A century and a half of Arab experience with Europe, Colonel Qadhafi said, prove that the bombing of an American airliner that killed 270 people "is just another bad excuse against Libya."

"It is weak and fabricated," he said Friday night. "They had to come up with something."

The U.N. Security Council voted 11-0 Thursday night to widen existing air, arms and diplomatic sanctions to include a freeze on Libya's overseas assets and a ban on sale of some oil equipment. China, which has a Security Council veto, Pakistan, Djibouti and Morocco abstained.

The new punishments take effect on Dec. 1 unless Libya surrenders two suspects in the 1988 destruction of Pan Am 103 for trial in the United States or Britain.

Libya says it has advised the suspects to accept trial in Scotland but has no power to overrule their refusal.

In London, a correspondent for the official Libyan agency JANA wrote that Scottish attorney Alastair Duff said the two suspects would fight in Libyan court any effort by the government to force them to Scotland. He said he thought they would win.

Mr. Duff is among 12 members of a defence team for the pair, Abdul Basit Ali Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, both alleged to be agents of the Libyan government.

The Scottish lawyer said new sanctions "will not change any-

thing ... concerning their appearance before courts in the U.S. or Scotland." JANA said.

In a report from Libya monitored in Cairo, JANA said Col. Qadhafi commented on his confrontation with the United Nations in a meeting with "the revolutionary force in Zlitan," a seaside town 145 kilometres east of Tripoli.

"Oil makes the West's mouth water," he said. "it is the European greed for petroleum that makes them think of invading the places where oil is."

Libya's economy depends on oil to the tune of \$9 billion a year. Its European oil customers reportedly have blocked U.S. and British attempts to hit this source of income by banning oil sales.

Col. Qadhafi said France did not have the Lockerbie case in 1830 when it occupied Algeria, nor Britain when it took control of Egypt in the 1880s, nor Italy when Libya was invaded in 1911, nor the United States when it bombed Tripoli and Benghazi in 1986. Former President Ronald Reagan ordered the U.S. attack to punish Libya for the bombing of a West Berlin nightclub that killed a U.S. army sergeant and a Turkish woman.

"Lockerbie is an excuse. After Libya it will be Syria to crush its military and economic power," Col. Qadhafi said. "They want to destroy Egypt, Algeria, Iraq, Libya and Syria so that there will be nobody to face up to them and to gather up the wealth of the Arab nations."

Libya has decided to close its land borders with Egypt and Tunisia for three days, starting from midnight (2200 GMT)

Saturday, Egyptian officials said in Cairo.

The officials said they were informed of the decision by the Libyan authorities.

The borders were being closed in protest at the new U.N. sanctions against Libya.

Meanwhile travellers from Libya arriving in Salmun, near the border, said thousands of Libyans had started gathering on the country's borders, notably at Misrata, to demonstrate against the sanctions.

The demonstrators chanted slogans denouncing "U.S. imperialism" and "Western colonialism."

IRAQ'S government newspaper said Saturday the tightening of sanctions against Libya was part of the "political hypocrisy" of Western powers.

Al Jumhoriyah described as unjustified and unfair new economic measures the Security Council ordered against Libya.

"The latest Security Council resolution against Libya ... exposes the international political hypocrisy," it said.

"The great powers in the Security Council ... have forsaken all international principles and turned into commercial companies," it added.

Al Jumhoriyah said the council acted under pressure from Washington.

Iraq is still under sweeping U.N. sanctions imposed in response to its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Al Jumhoriyah said the council wanted to see its resolutions against Iraq and Libya fully implemented but paid no attention to those it issued against Israel.

"Has the world seen political hypocrisy greater than that we see today?" it added.



Murtaza Bhutto, brother of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, waves to supporters as he comes to court for a hearing Saturday. Mr. Bhutto is wanted on a string of charges of terrorism and abduction in murders while he was leader of the Al Zulfikar Organisation (AZO). Mr. Bhutto said his sister's government is gripped by political fear and is over-reacting to his return home (AFP photo)

Yemeni cabinet mediates in crisis

SANA (R) — Yemen's coalition government, caught in the country's worst crisis in three years of unity, is mediating in a growing row between the president and his deputy.

The official Al Thawra newspaper said Saturday the cabinet formed a committee headed by Prime Minister Haider Abu Baker Al Attas to ensure "proper conditions and atmosphere for the resumption of dialogue between members of the coalition."

The committee has asked ministers to curb army activities, speed up investigations into political killings, and ban inflammatory speeches which could threaten reconciliation.

Yemen's two main political parties, the General People's Congress (GPC) of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) of Vice-President Ali Salem Al Baeedh have been at odds since July over political and economic reforms.

The crisis is the worst since Yemen united in 1990. The two parties had shared power until general elections in April when the Islamist Party, Islah, won enough seats to make it the third partner in the coalition.

The YSP, based in former South Yemen, says Mr. Saleh's party is trying to run everything in its own way, turning unification into annexation.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which is trying to mediate, has warned politicians the quarrel could turn violent and undo the work of unification.

A cabinet statement said the mediation committee "will follow up the developments of the current political crisis and work towards the elimination of all its signs and effects."

It asked Defence Minister Haitham Qassem Taber to dismantle "newly introduced posts and checkpoints, return army units with their arms to pre-crisis positions and stop new reinforcements."

The former North and South Yemen armies have yet to merge and there have been persistent rumours of army movements in recent weeks.

The armed forces newspaper September 26 said on Friday reports of troop movements in various parts of Yemen were all "baseless and fabricated."

COLUMN

Top U.S. cardinal charged with sexual abuse

CHICAGO (AFP) — One of the most senior Roman Catholic leaders in the United States was accused of sexually abusing a former seminary student in a \$10-million lawsuit. Cardinal Joseph Bernardin denied the charges that he sodomised Steven Cook, 34, sometime between 1975 and 1977 when Cook was a student at a Cincinnati, Ohio, seminary where Card. Bernardin was an archbishop.

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